

Social democrats to launch party in 10 cities on March 26

The leaders of the Council for Social Democracy will announce the formation of a new centre party on March 26. A policy statement published then will be subject to change at a national conference. Leading social democratic members, using fast transport, including aircraft, will hold press conferences in 10 cities on the launch date.

Conference to vote on policy

By George Clark
Political Correspondent

Dr David Owen, the former Labour Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, Mr Roy Jenkins, Mrs Shirley Williams, and Mr William Rodgers, MP for Teesside, Stockton, who form the collective leadership of the Council for Social Democracy, will announce the formation of a new centre party on March 26.

Mr Mike Thomas, MP for Newcastle upon Tyne, East, a leading member of the council, told a press conference at the Commons last night that the preparatory work in launching a political party in an age of modern electronics and rapid communication was complicated. Referring to the beginnings of the Labour Party, he said: "The last time anyone attempted this was 80 years ago and it was 18 years before they had a proper constitution".

Because the Social Democrats believed strongly in the principle of one member, one vote it was obvious that it would be some time before the party would emerge with a constitution and an agreed policy. The first phase might be completed this year and the second next year. But in order that people could have a general indication of the party's aims, a policy statement would be published at the launching press conference. It would be subject to change, by democratic vote. That statement was being drawn up by the trustees of the council, comprising Mr Clive Lindley, chairman, a businessman and former Labour candidate at Leominster in 1974 (chairman), Lord Diamond, former Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Sir Leslie Murphy, chairman of the National Enterprise Board until 1980, and Mr an Wicksborough, MP for Teesside, Thornaby.

Mr Thomas said: "The object is not only to launch ourselves in the world but to invite people to become members or supporters of the new party. It will be possible for people to join by telephone and there will be phone banks operated by volunteers in 18 centres all over the country, including the cities where press conferences will be held."

Contributions will be accepted by Access and Barclaycard, he said. The extent of that coverage is impressive. The programme will be for the "gang of four" to launch the party and answer questions from the press and television reporters at the Connaught Rooms, London, at 9 am on March 26. After that, the leading party members will disperse and conduct press conferences in Cardiff, Manchester, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Birmingham, Norwich, Leeds, Southampton and Plymouth. There may also be a press conference in Liverpool, where the Social Democrats are hoping for an electoral pact with the Liberals.

Mr David Steel, leader of the Liberal Party, yesterday welcomed the defection of Mr Christopher Brocklebank-Fowler from the Conservatives. "It is a very significant step forward, because it is the first departure we have had from the Conservative Party at parliamentary level", he said on Independent Television News. At local level, there had been recruits from the Conservative Party to both the Liberal Party and the Social Democrats.

He had been consulted by Mr Brocklebank-Fowler "and he explained to me that he thought that the newness of the Council for Social Democracy was a significant factor in his decision". It was very difficult for an MP to join another party.

Had there been any approaches from other unhappy Conservative MPs? "The answer is yes, but I am not saying that there is going to be a spate of defections from the Conservative Party", Mr Steel said.

"Certainly there are a number of Conservatives who are deeply unhappy and who make no concealment of the fact."

Mr Steel said it was difficult to estimate the number of potential Conservative defectors. "I would not think there would be more than two or three in the life of this Parliament", he said, "but in saying that I do not know how fast the snowball of the new alliance (Liberals/Social Democrats) is going to grow."

"After all, the Social Democrats still have to launch themselves as a new party. After that we have to put together the political alliance between ourselves. Then, at that stage, I think the thing could well snowball. I may be quite wrong in my underestimate."

The Liberals were looking forward to a by-election, he said, because of the progress they had been making.

Asked if the Liberals would stand aside and give, say, Mrs Williams or Mr Roy Jenkins a free run at a parliamentary by-election, Mr Steel said: "That would depend entirely on the constituency concerned, and certainly I would like to see them both back in the House of Commons, because I think it would strengthen the alliance enormously. I hope therefore that we will be able to help that."

On the question of whether he would urge Liberals to fight for the Social Democrats, he said it would depend on the sort of constituency it was. If there was a strong Liberal association in and a candidate was already in place, obviously the Liberal was not going to stand down.

Jenkins speech, page 2

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Jenkins speech, page 2

Diplomat referred to in sex trial named today

By Our Political Correspondent

Rejecting the advice of Sir Michael Havers, QC, the Attorney General, that he should not name the diplomat referred to in a recent case at the Central Criminal Court, Mr Geoffrey Dickens, Conservative MP for Huddersfield, West, yesterday tabled two questions in the House of Commons naming the diplomat. He is Sir Peter Hayman, who was High Commissioner in Canada from 1970 to 1974.

Mr Dickens's questions are: "To ask the Attorney General if he will prosecute Sir Peter Hayman under the Post Office Acts for sending and receiving pornographic material through the Royal Mail."

To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (Mr Francis Pym) if he will move to set up a select committee to investigate the security implications of the entries contained within volumes of Sir Peter Hayman's diaries, referred to in the trial of Tony O'Carroll at the Old Bailey."

Reference was made to a diplomat during the trial. Mr O'Carroll, aged 35, who was chairman of the Paedophile Information Exchange, was sentenced to two years' imprisonment for conspiring to corrupt public morals.

Sir Michael, who had a meeting with Mr Dickens at the Commons on Monday night, appeared to him not to mention the diplomat's name.

"It seems to me wrong that someone who has not been prosecuted should be named unless there is any compelling reason to do so, and I do not think there is one," Sir Michael had said earlier.

Mr Dickens said last night that he was not persuaded by Sir Michael's arguments.

Mr Dickens claims that the police and many other observers at the trial at the Central Criminal Court were "absolutely staggered" that the diplomat had not been charged as a result of what was found at his flat. He had been a contributing member of the Paedophile Information Exchange.

Last night it became clear that the Attorney General is preparing a fairly lengthy reply to Mr Dickens's question. Mr Pym is not likely to answer his question on security risks until Monday.

Detectives had questioned the diplomat after he had left pornographic material on a bus. On Sunday the Attorney General said that he and Sir Thomas of Rotheringham, QC, Director of Public Prosecutions, had looked at the case and decided that the original decision not to prosecute was correct. "He was dealt with in exactly the same way as a number of others who had attempted to send obscene material through the post," Sir Michael said. "It was a fairly minor matter. There was no question of them corrupting children."

It appears that nine people were involved and it is being argued that it is wrong to name one man and not the others.

Named diplomat, page 2



Sir Peter Hayman: Former High Commissioner.



Important visitor: The Duke of Edinburgh and President Shagari of Nigeria inspecting the Irish Guards yesterday.

The President and his retinue of two dozen ministers, advisers and businessmen will spend today sightseeing and discussing business and politics. A long lunch is planned with Mrs Margaret Thatcher and Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary. Britain is seeking a large share of £600m in arms contracts which the petroleum

Death squad kills wife of Muslim sect chief

From Our Own Correspondent
Bonn, March 17

The wife of the head of the Muslim Brotherhood was shot dead at their home in Aachen today by a death squad evidently out for her husband.

Mr Issam al-Attar, the spiritual leader of the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood, which has been opposing President Assad's Government in Syria, was in hiding after being warned that his life was in danger.

Aachen police said three sweat-shirted men entered the door of the flat, accosted a neighbour who had gone to the attic to get her washing and forced her, at gunpoint, to ring the Attars' bell, and smile at the spyhole in the door.

When Mrs al-Attar opened the door they jumped forward, firing with hand guns, hitting her four times in the head, neck, and chest.

One dragged the body into the landing, while the other two ran into the flat apparently seeking Mr al-Attar.

While a neighbour called police, the men raced out of the building and made off in an orange car in the direction of the Dutch border about two miles away.

Mr al-Attar was in no doubt about who was responsible for the murder. Weeping, he told a Syrian journalist in London: "Syrian agents killed my wife". West German police declined to say whom they suspected.

Mrs Benan al-Attar, aged 37, was the daughter of Mr Ali al-Tanzawi, a prominent figure in the Saudi Arabian establishment and an eminent judge and authority on Islam. He appears twice a week on Saudi television speaking about Islam.

Another fall for the steeplechase Prince

By Michael Phillips
Racing Correspondent

The Prince of Wales's second steeplechase in five days again ended in failure at Cheltenham yesterday. He was dislodged from his horse, Good Prospect, yesterday in the same way as at Sandown Park on Friday.

Good Prospect started as a 25-1 outsider and misjudged a fence once more, giving his enthusiastic owner-rider little chance of staying in the saddle. This time they parted company with a full circuit left to run, whereas at Sandown there were only four fences to jump. Each time Good Prospect hit the fence and each time Prince Charles was catapulted forward and out of his stirrups. Professional opinion has it that Prince Charles still has a thing or two to learn about the art of race riding, which is so different to hunting.

By sitting back rather than crouching forward, Prince Charles might not have come a cropper in either race. As he limped away from the fence which brought about his downfall yesterday he was heard to remark: "Oh, well, you live and you learn."

Cheltenham report, page 13

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Junket for robbers was police trap

From Michael Leapman
New York, March 17

The hand-drawn sign in the front window of the charabanc read: "Good Buy Charter". It should have been spelt differently for the coach party of 25, who had been expecting a jolly day's gambling and drinking a gambling trip to Atlantic City, were instead driven to prison.

It was the culmination of another of those police undercover operations which cause such merriment when they are disclosed here. Good Buy was the name the police gave to a shop they established five months ago in Manhattan's Diamond District, on West 47th Street off Fifth Avenue, for the purpose of buying stolen property.

During that time, police say they bought goods worth \$2.5m (£1.1m) although they paid only \$8,000 for them. The discrepancy was caused by the fact that much of the property was stolen bonds which are hard to sell and therefore command a low price on the undercover market.

After they set up the shop, describing themselves as "buyers of gold and silver", police said it was not long before word of their willingness to buy stolen property circulated in the underworld.

They received a steady flow of offers and propositions, including one from a man who wanted their help in killing and robbing a Brooklyn couple. Soon the operators of Good Buy informed their clients that to celebrate the imminence of spring, they would be organizing a gambling trip to Atlantic City to reward their loyal patrons. There would be free champagne and \$1,000 of stake money each. The day trippers were to meet yesterday morning at Sullivan's Bar on Eighth Avenue at 46th Street, not far from the Diamond District.

When the group of 25 had assembled they were all placed under arrest. Then they were loaded on to a police van and driven, not to the seaside, but to the police station. There, 11 of the 25 were charged with possessing stolen goods and the remainder held for questioning. Police are still looking for 18 of their customers who, with apparent foresight, did not go.

Giant panda is treated at London hospital

By a Staff Reporter

Ching-Ching, the London Zoo's female giant panda, who has been in poor health for some time, became a patient for three hours at University College Hospital, London, yesterday.

The panda, who was given to Britain seven years ago by China, was anaesthetized at the zoo and was taken to the hospital for a radio isotope scan while veterinary surgeons attended her. Technical staff in the scanner room carried out the investigation voluntarily after their working hours.

The results will be known today. The hospital has been giving advice about Ching-Ching for some time. She was in a critical condition last year and had an emergency operation. Ching-Ching is aged eight, young for a giant panda.

Soviet denial of backing M Giscard

From Michael Binyon
Moscow, March 17

The Russians today vigorously denied that they had signed their favour of Presidentiscard d'Estaing in the forthcoming French election, and accused the French press of dishonesty in trying to show that Moscow was interfering in France's internal affairs.

The sharp official denial published in Pravda comes after a note was provoked in France by a Pravda report from Paris at week which praised Presidentiscard d'Estaing while seeming to express disapproval of M Francois Mitterrand, his socialist opponent.

The report was interpreted as a clear signal that the Russians would prefer the victor to emerge as the victor in a run-off between the two. It was swiftly attacked by the Gaullist and Socialist politicians as "inadmissible interference" in French affairs.

Pravda today asserted that it had merely been reporting on the chances of the various candidates as all newspapers did routinely during election campaigns.

French Foreign Minister Le Monic said that the "anti-Soviet" report was "unfounded" and "untrue". He said the "slanders" were "in keeping with the facts". Last week the newspaper described M Giscard d'Estaing as "restrained and careful politician", who had won personal popularity especially on the international scene. By contrast, it used the Socialist Party, which in 1974 formed an electoral alliance with the Communists, of drifting to the right. It said Mitterrand's chances were weakened by the absence of a clear and consistent political programme and a frequent failure to suit the interests of a very broad range of voters.

The Russians openly favour Georges Marchais, the Communist leader. This year, he has formed an electoral alliance with the Socialists, and Moscow has been keenly following the progress of the election. It is taking potential voters from the Communists.

Over support for Presidentiscard d'Estaing is not surprising, however. The Russians have long been in his camp, owing those of General de Gaulle, to distance himself from the left while asserting that he has a special relationship with the Soviet Union.

University job loss could total 7,000

By Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

About 3,000 university teachers will have to be made compulsorily redundant over the next three years, at an estimated cost of between £100m and £200m, because of planned government spending cuts, Dr Edward Parkes, chairman of the University Grants Committee (UGC), told the House of Commons Public Accounts Committee yesterday.

A further 4,000 non-academic staff would also have to be made redundant, Dr Parkes said, that unless the Government was prepared to provide the large sums needed to meet redundancy payments, some universities would "simply become bankrupt".

He emphasized that the figures were based on the UGC's most optimistic assumptions.

The committee's very conservative estimate was that university income would be cut by at least 11 per cent over the next three years, Dr Parkes said.

The Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals estimates that income will be cut by 15 per cent.

If the cuts were spread uniformly, all universities would have to freeze all posts, Dr Parkes said. "But in fact we shall be spreading the cuts very non-uniformly."

Redundancy costs would have to be taken into account the varied nature of university teachers' contracts, but a figure of £40,000 to £50,000 had been suggested for each redundancy. Dr Parkes said that his committee did not envisage the closure of any university, provided that money could be found for redundancies.

Appeals to test criteria on brain death fail

The Court of Appeal has rejected two applications that could have provided the first detailed legal test of the British criteria for brain death. It held that doctors who switched off life support systems could not be blamed for the deaths of two patients who claimed that two patients who fulfilled the criteria had survived. Page 4
Law Report, page 8

Banking realignment

Standard Chartered Bank and the Royal Bank of Scotland agreed on merger terms and Lloyds Bank launched a takeover bid for Lloyds and Scottish, the country's largest independent finance house, in the biggest realignment in British banking for more than a decade. Page 17

London lorry ban

Heavy lorries are to be banned from a 50 square mile area of north London when a new section of the M25 orbital motorway is opened later this year. The ban is the first in Britain to cover such a big area. Page 3

Escape plotters jailed

A plot to snatch an IRA terrorist leader from a London prison by helicopter led to the sentencing of three men after a two-week trial at the Central Criminal Court. Page 2

Double Tory loyalty over petrol tax

Conservative leaders in the constituencies of the Tory MPs who voted against the Government over the 20p increase in petrol tax expressed support for the rebels. But at the same time they emphasized their support for the Government's economic strategy in a double display of loyalty. Page 2

'Germ war' lawsuit

The United States Government denied in court in San Francisco that a germ warfare test which created a bacteriological fog there in September, 1950, had killed a wealthy businessman who died a month later. Relatives of the businessman are seeking about \$5m in damages from the United States Army. Page 6

Warning by UN

Major General William Callaghan, the United Nations commander in Lebanon, denounced the "barbaric" killing of two Nigerian soldiers by the Israeli-backed militia of Major Saad Haddad. He issued a warning that if attacked again his force would "protect itself with the defensive weapons at its disposal". Page 7

Amnesty dismissal

A prolonged and bitter dispute within the British section of Amnesty International has led to the dismissal of the director of the human rights organization, Mr Cosmas Desmond. He said he was "utterly and completely amazed" by the executive council's decision. He was undecided whether to appeal against it. Page 2

England have hard task to save Test

England, set the improbable task of scoring 523 in 10 hours to win the third Test match, were 166 for 5 at the close of the fourth day. Goodwin was 88 not out and shared a second-wicket partnership of 120 with Gower, who scored 54 before being bowled by Richards. Page 12

EEC passport

EEC foreign ministers have agreed to endeavour to introduce a uniform wine-coloured EEC passport no later than January 1, 1985. It will be issued by the national authorities and carry the name of the issuing state in larger type than the words: "European Community". Page 6

Civil Service dispute

Serious extension of disruption has been threatened by the Inland Revenue Staff Federation 2. Racial harassment: Councils urged to take a strong stand after report disclosed violent incidents on housing estates. Page 4

Warsaw: Farmers at the city of Bydgoszcz occupied party offices in a new confrontation. Page 8

Classified advertisements: Appointment, page 10; La creme de la creme, 25, 26; Personal, 26, 28; Residential property, 24, 25

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Letters: On universities and industry, from the Vice-Chancellor of Lancaster University, and Mr W. A. Barker; the Budget, from Lord Robert Carr; and others. Leading articles: The Tories; Syria; Latin America. Features, pages 10, 14
Peter Evans on the growing number of unused crimes; Bernard Levin on Mr Baughey's bandwagon; Alan Hamilton's London Diary. Obituary, page 16
Charles Wrey Gardiner, Mr James Dow, Professor Colin Grant. Arts, page 11
Joan Goodman talks to Robin Williams who plays Popeye in the film of the old comic strip; William Munn on Stockhausen's first opera, at La Scala; Ned Challen on Up in the 80s (King's Head); Anthony Masters on the Theatre of Mistakes; Richard Williams on Billy Cobham at the Round House. Sport, pages 12, 13
Football: England squad for Spanish match; European competitions previewed; League Cup final replay live on television; Rugby Union: Peter West profiles Mike Slemmen. Business News, pages 17-23
Stock Markets: Selective buying of second liners by the institutions provided another strong session for equities but profit taking left gilts lower. The FT index closed 7.8 higher at 467.6. Financial Editor: Putting together a new business features: The politics of the uranium market are discussed by Nicholas Hirst and Michael Prest.



She is now being cared for by RUKBA with a life long annuity and, should it ever be necessary, a place in a Residential Home or a Sheltered flat, but we have no pictures of the ever growing number of others like her who are in desperate need of RUKBA's help.

RUKBA is the Charity which looks after the impoverished and/or infirm elderly of professional or similar backgrounds - people who, in their prime, did so much for others, and are today struggling to exist themselves. Will you help us now to give them the security and help they so greatly need?

Last year we spent nearly £1 1/2m assisting over 4,800 people. Only the amount of your donations and legacies can decide how many more we can help this year. Please be kind and support our work with a generous contribution - and please remember RUKBA in your Will.

THE ROYAL UNITED KINGDOM BENEFICENT ASSOCIATION (Founded 1863)
Patron: Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother

RUKBA
To: The General Secretary,
RUKBA,
6 AVONMORE ROAD,
LONDON W14 8RL
I'd like to help - here's my contribution
Name _____
Address _____
7151

Heavy lorries to be banned from large area of north London in experimental scheme

By Jacob Eccleston

Heavy lorries are to be banned from 50 square miles of north London when a new section of the M25 is opened in September.

Announcing the ban yesterday the Greater London Council said it was experimental and not intended to stop lorries seeking legitimate access.

The aim is to prevent lorries of more than 7.5 tonnes gross (3 tonnes unladen) driving through the area bounded by the A1, M25, A10 and the North Circular Road.

The ban is the first in Britain to cover such a big area, one-twelfth of greater London. Its effect on traffic will be monitored by GLC engineers and planners who will prepare reports.

Mr Alan Greencross, leader of the council's planning and communications policy committee, said yesterday that the GLC had been asked by Barnet and Enfield borough councils to introduce such a ban "and we think the time is right to try it experimentally."

Enforcement of the ban is likely to be difficult. The police are not in favour, believing that it will be difficult for them to decide whether lorries are seeking access.

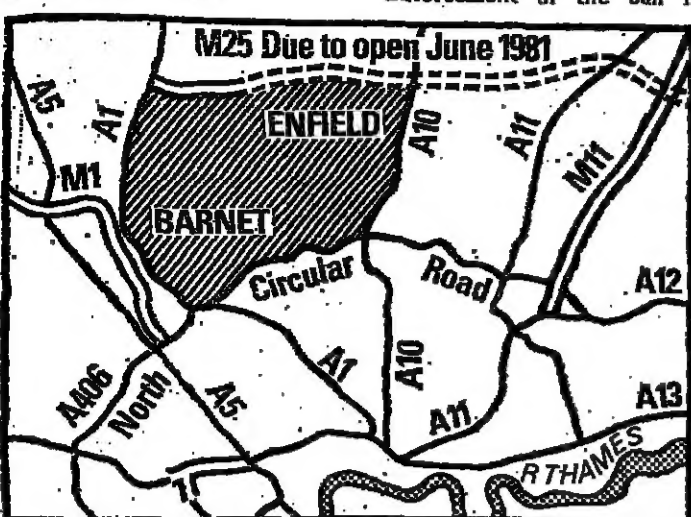
In a letter to the committee last October, Sir David McNeil, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, said the scheme should not go ahead until the M25 ring road had been finished.

The committee was told, however, that self-enforcement would be effective, similar bans in a small scale having reduced heavy goods vehicle traffic elsewhere by between 50 and 80 per cent.

The scheme has been worked out over the last two and a half years, with detailed consultations over the past seven months. People living in the banned area were strongly in favour.

The Road Haulage Association protested that the scheme would cause severe congestion. The GLC told them that an estimated 3,500 lorries a day would be affected and about 3,000 of those were expected to be diverted on to the M25 when it opens.

The GLC also announced another restriction yesterday, on "road-trains" - lorries towing a rigidly fastened trailer. The ban affects "trains" more than 15.5m long and applies to the whole of London apart from a few trunk roads. Lorries towing fairground and circus equipment are exempt.



The shaded area where lorries of more than 7.5 tonnes gross are to be banned after September.

IRA shoots reserve policeman

From Christopher Thomas

A reserve policeman was shot by the IRA in the centre of Londonderry yesterday and was in a serious condition last night.

He was hit in the arm and abdomen by a single shot while on patrol with two other men. The area was nearly deserted because shops were closed for St Patrick's Day.

A police station in the city was stoned by youths after a rally in support of the Maze hunger strike and a bar in the predominantly Protestant Waterside area was stoned for about 10 minutes. Three customers were injured.

In west Belfast, hunger strike supporters ignored the wishes of the organizers of a St Patrick's Day parade and joined the march carrying banners of Haughey optimism. Mr Charles Haughey, the Irish Prime Minister, spoke of the widespread regret at the partitioning of Ireland in a St Patrick's Day message yesterday, and said closer cooperation between Ireland and Britain was the most hopeful development for some time (our Dublin Correspondent writes).

All men of good will regretted the divisions and enmities between Irish people. "The great majority, however, remain committed to the ideal of a sovereign, independent, united and peaceful Ireland based on justice and reconciliation."

Mr Reagan condemns Ulster violence

By Our Foreign Staff

President Ronald Reagan yesterday condemned the violence in Northern Ireland and urged Americans to question closely any appeal for financial or other aid from groups involved in the conflict.

In a St Patrick's Day statement, Mr Reagan said the United States "will continue to urge the parties to come together for a just and peaceful solution."

He added: "I pray and hope that the day will come when the tragedy of history which now

afflicts Northern Ireland will be overcome, by faith, the courage and love of freedom and justice of the Irish."

"We will continue to condemn all acts of terrorism."

In another development in Washington, a group of prominent Irish-Americans has announced the formation of an organization to be called the Friends of Ireland.

The main signatories are Senator Edward Kennedy, Mr Thomas O'Neill, speaker of the House of Representatives, Senator Daniel Moynihan and Mr

Hugh Carey, Governor of New York.

The organization will be set up in a few weeks and initially its membership will be limited to members of the two houses of Congress.

The organization will rival the ad hoc Committee on Ireland set up by Congressman Mario Biaggi, that acts as an apologist for the Provisional IRA.

The organization says: "We take satisfaction that American support for the violence has declined."

'It's a knockout' man tells of missing dinner guest

Colin Wallace, who had helped organize an *It's a Knockout* programme yesterday, told a jury at Lewes Crown Court that he was sure that the man he is alleged to have killed, Mr Lewis, was still alive.

He said Mr Lewis failed to appear at a dinner party given for his wife, Jane, during the party, Mr Wallace said, he fell ill and went home to get some medicine, and also drove around to see if he could find Mr Lewis.

The prosecution alleges that Mr Wallace, aged 37, of Dalway Road, Arundel, killed Mr Lewis before the party during a row about his relationship with Mrs Lewis.

The jury has been told that Mr Wallace, information officer with Arun District Council, fell in love with Mrs Lewis, aged

29, his assistant, while they worked together organizing the *It's a Knockout* programme filmed in Arundel last July.

Mr Wallace, a member of the search for Jonathan Lewis, the man he is alleged to have killed, whose body was recovered from a river. A charge of murder has been withdrawn.

Mr Wallace said yesterday that he had arranged a dinner for Mrs Lewis on August 5. Her husband asked to meet him beforehand, and he assumed it was to discuss the party.

They met at his home, and during the conversation Mr Lewis asked him if he was having an affair with Mrs Lewis. He said he was not.

There had been no argument and he had dropped Mr Lewis off in Arundel.

The trial continues today.

Building union rejects 'derisory' offer

By Our Labour Staff

The Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians yesterday formally rejected a pay offer which would mean a four-month pay freeze followed by a 5.75 per cent increase in minimum earnings.

The union's executive described the offer as derisory and requested the union's negotiators to secure an improved offer.

The two sides are in any case due to meet again on April 9 and union leaders, having made it clear that strike action was possible if the employers stood by their present offer, are hoping for an improved offer on that date.

The employers told the unions in negotiations this week that it would be suicidal for the

industry if the union's claim was met in full. The union is seeking what it calls a substantial increase, consolidation of the minimum guaranteed bonus and a 35-hour week.

The building and civil engineering contractors told the unions that with unemployment in construction rising fast the workers had to choose between higher pay and keeping their jobs.

Beggar lived in Hyde Park for 12 years, report says

By Peter Evans

Home Affairs Correspondent

A Pole lived for 12 years in the open in Hyde Park and survived by begging. A prisoner in Pentonville had 60 convictions in 30 years, nearly half of them since 1960 for ordering and eating meals in restaurants without paying.

Those are the stories of two men in a study published yesterday of persistent petty offenders.

The ear of one man arrested at Bethnal Green was half-severed from his head and the police felt that a hospital would be unwilling to deal with him in his drunken state. At the police station "he received the medical care he needed".

Part of the study, published

yesterday for the Home Office Research Unit, was of some persistent offenders at Pentonville Prison. Two thirds of those serving one month or less in the sample had been born in Scotland or Ireland. Only one was a Londoner.

The report says that sentences of imprisonment given to persistent petty offenders often appeared out of proportion to the seriousness of the offence. But magistrates had few options. An extremely high proportion of those who returned most frequently to Pentonville were homeless and penniless.

Action taken at Pentonville to settle homeless offenders into accommodation showed that such a service could be helpful.

Persistent Petty Offenders: Home Office Research Study No 66 (Stationery Office, £3.90).

Single system for housing costs help is proposed

By Our Planning Reporter

Proposals for a new unified housing benefit, affecting about five and a half million households in Britain, are contained in a consultation document issued to local authorities yesterday by the Department of the Environment.

At present, help with housing costs is provided either through supplementary benefit, administered by the Department of Health and Social Security, or through local authority rent and rate rebates and allowances.

The consultation paper suggests that all such assistance should in future be administered by local authorities.

The Child Poverty Action Group said last night that the proposals would benefit pensioners and people paying high rents, at the expense of families with low incomes.

Reporter denies provocateur role

From Michael Horsnell

Middlesbrough

A former reporter for *The Times* denied yesterday that he had acted as an agent provocateur in persuading a young criminal to make contact with police officers during an investigation by the newspaper into police corruption, in the hope that one would eventually agree to meet him.

Mr Gareth Lloyd, who is now a BBC television reporter, also rejected claims at Teesside Crown Court, Middlesbrough, that he had concocted notes about the investigation after receiving "advice from certain persons".

Mr Lloyd was giving evidence under cross-examination by former Det Sergeant John Symonds, aged 45, who is accused of obtaining a total of

£150 in 1969 from Mr Michael Perry, in return for helping him over an arrest.

Mr Symonds, who denies three corruption charges suggested that Mr Lloyd was eager to write a sensational story regardless of the evidence.

Mr Lloyd replied: "Do not be farcical. Mr Symonds. We were dealing with professional corrupt police officers."

Mr Symonds, who left the country in 1972 while on bail awaiting trial and only returned last May, is conducting his own defence. He asked why his name had not been included in notes taken by Mr Lloyd on October 27, 1969.

Mr Lloyd replied: "You were an extremely peripheral figure in the early stages of the investigation. We were interested in another police officer."

Mr Lloyd denied that tape-recordings allegedly taken of conversations between Mr Perry and police officers, including Mr Symonds, had been partly erased in order to avoid the suggestion that he had acted as an agent provocateur.

All original tape-recordings and copies had been handed to the police. Mr Lloyd added: "The control of the police inquiry which followed was carried out by an extremely corrupt police officer now in jail and I do not know if he muddled up any of these tapes. Any muddling did not occur during my custody of them."

Mr Lloyd denied that tape had been given to Mr Perry to pay the detective. "I would not dream of giving you a farthing," Mr Lloyd said.

The hearing continues today.

Woman was found to be alive in coffin

From Our Correspondent

Gloucester

A woman certified dead from a drugs overdose came back to life in a mortuary yesterday.

Mrs Jacqueline Rosser, aged 32, was later unconscious and critically ill at Gloucestershire Royal Hospital, Gloucester.

She had been found at her home in Chapel Street, Stroud, early yesterday morning. A doctor certified death and an undertaker took her to the Gloucester mortuary.

It is understood that Mrs Rosser was seen to be breathing by the mortuary attendant when he opened the coffin. A resuscitation team was then called in.

Mr David Faulkner, the Cheltenham district coroner, said: "A death was reported to me in the usual way and in accordance with standard procedures. I gave authority for the body to be removed to the mortuary. It is a most unfortunate incident."

Mr Lionel Rosser, of Park Road, Nailsworth, near Stroud, said: "We were divorced about three years ago. She has been ill for about 10 years."

Mr Rosser added that he was about to tell their two sons about their mother's death when he received a telephone message saying she was alive.

Dr Graham Voss of Beches Green Health Centre, Stroud, confirmed that he had certified Mrs Rosser was dead but had declined to answer questions last night.



Photograph by Warren Harrison

Tours for the blind: Guided tours for the blind around Manchester and Chester were initiated yesterday as a contribution to the International Year for Disabled People (John Chartres writes from Manchester). A dozen blind people, some with guide dogs,

visited some of Manchester's main attractions, including (above) the statue of Humfrido Chetham in the cathedral. The walks are being organized by British Heritage Tours, with trained guides provided by the English Tourist Board.

Quiet requiem service for former head of MI6

By a Staff Reporter

The requiem service for Sir Maurice Oldfield was, as befits a man who spent much of his life in the twilight world of espionage, a quiet affair.

Figures from the secret world of intelligence joined friends and parishioners at St Matthew's Church in Westminster yesterday to pay their final respects to the former head of British intelligence before his coffin was taken to Over Haddon in Derbyshire for a family funeral service and burial.

Sir Maurice, who recently

came out of retirement to act as Security Coordinator in Northern Ireland, died on March 11, aged 65.

He was, in the words of a close friend, Canon Peter Pilkington, headmaster of the King's School, Canterbury, who delivered the address at the service, a "devout and convinced Christian... who could have found a safer and less worrying path than heading MI6."

Sir Maurice lived a brisk two minutes' walk from St Matthew's and took an active part in parish affairs.

Karate governing body lax, inquest jury says

An inquest jury yesterday criticized the Martial Arts Commission, a governing body of karate, for being lax in introducing new safety rules, after a fighter collapsed and died during a karate bout.

But it decided no one was to blame for the death of Mr Joseph Logue, aged 25, who suffered a heavy attack, and returned a verdict of death by misadventure.

No doctor was present when Mr Logue collapsed during a competition at his home town of Bracknell, Berkshire, 10 days ago.

Mr du Cann argues for MPs curbing spending

By Peter Hennessy

Mr Edward du Cann, chairman of the Commons Select Committee on the Treasury and the Civil Service, yesterday outlined his proposals for altering the balance of power between Westminster and Whitehall by restoring to Parliament the right to grant or withhold funds for government spending programmes.

The scheme would involve the 14 new, departmentally related select committees which would be given the power to recommend to the Commons that reductions or alterations in the balance between financial estimates should be made, after such estimates had been presented to the Commons by Whitehall departments. The committees should not, however, be allowed to suggest increases in estimates.

Only by exerting influence on money matters would the select committees be able to exercise real authority, Mr du Cann, Conservative MP for Taunton, told the Commons Select Committee on Procedure (Supply).

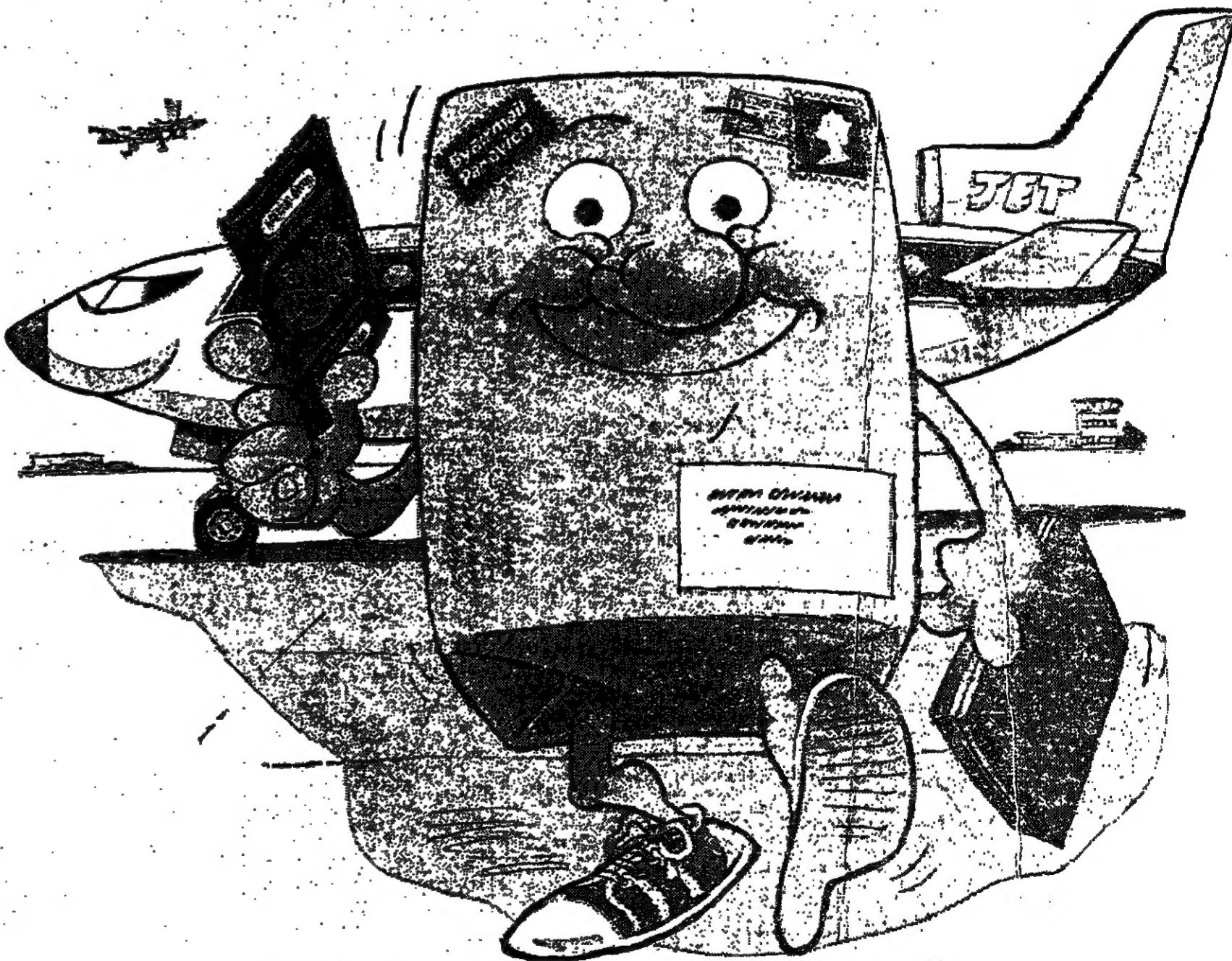
He said that Parliament's failure to scrutinize expenditure was a disgrace.

"Our systems are complex, they are archaic, they are a denial of democracy."

Mr du Cann, who also chairs the liaison committee, consisting of all committee chairmen, which he dubbed a trade union of select committees, said Mr Joel Barnett, Labour MP for Heywood and Royton, a former Chief Secretary to the Treasury and chairman of the Commons public accounts committee, backed his views although other chairmen were less enthusiastic.

Challenged by an assertion from Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark, Conservative MP for Birmingham, Selly Oak, that select committees acting in the way he suggested might become parties within parties, Mr du Cann said he was proud to be a party man.

"Yet one has other loyalties. One has a greater loyalty to this institution [Parliament] and to the constitution."



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EEC countries agree to issue uniform passports by 1985

From Michael Hornsby
Brussels, March 17

After more than six years of quarrelling, EEC member states have taken their first modest, if still almost entirely symbolic, step towards the creation of European citizenship.

Foreign ministers of the Ten meeting in Brussels, have agreed to use their "best endeavours" to introduce a uniform wine-coloured EEC passport no later than January 1, 1985.

This does not mean, however, that the ancient proud boast of the peoples of the Roman Empire—*civis Romanus sum*—is about to be revived under the sway of the Treaty of Rome.

The new passport some of the technical details of which still have to be worked out, will neither supplant national passports, nor transfer the authority for issuing them from member states to some central EEC body.

All that will happen is that the present national passports of varying appearance and design will be given a common format and the lay-out of their contents will be standardized.

Originally, the introduction of such a passport—first approved in principle by EEC heads of government in Paris in 1974—was seen as merely the first step in the realization of the much more ambitious concept of a "passport union".

This would entail the abolition of all frontier controls within the EEC, and their replacement with a uniform system of control at the Community's common external frontier.

In other words, people would enjoy the same frontier. In other words, in the existing customs union, a traveller from a non-EEC state, having once entered the Community, would be free to pass unchecked from one member state to another.

The impossibility of accommodating Britain's strict immigration controls within such a system was only one of many practical difficulties which quickly relegated the noble concept of a "passport union" to the cemetery of the EEC's lost causes.

Indeed, so attached do member states remain to the trappings of political sovereignty that even the apparently harmless Euro-symbolism represented by a standard EEC passport was nearly snuffed out by the demons of national pride and prejudice.

Member states argued over the colour of the passport, the languages in which its contents should be written, and whether the words "European Community" should come above or below the name of the issuing state on the cover.

The jacket of the new 32-page document, it has now been decided, will be burgundy in colour. The European Community will take precedence over the name of the member state, but will be printed in slightly smaller type. National emblems, such as the British royal coat of arms, will be retained.

The descriptive data about the bearer will be printed in English, French and the tongue of the issuing state. A glossary at the back will translate the terms used into all eight official Community languages.

Language was one of the most difficult questions to resolve, and some minor points remain to be settled. The Germans, in particular, are loath to concede even the appearance of superior status for French and English.

The British are to be granted some flexibility in meeting the date for the issue of the new passport, which they want to synchronize with the introduction of a laminated plastic card with machine-readable data that will replace the present page containing data about the bearer.

The West German Government is keenly interested. Herr Klaus von Dohnanyi, of West Germany's Foreign Office, gave a warning that, if the veto remained, the consequences would be "very serious and very dangerous".

The Canada agreement would allow EEC trawlers—in practice, mainly German ones—to catch about 14,500 tonnes of fish, most of it valuable cod in waters off Labrador and Newfoundland. In return, Canada would allow EEC exports to the EEC would be cut.

Britain appeared to be heading for a serious clash with its EEC partners over the future of the Community's fisheries policy at next week's summit of heads of government in Maastricht in Holland.

In an attempt to avert a full-scale row, the foreign ministers were trying here tonight to find a way of enabling Britain to lift its veto on a fisheries agreement with Canada, in which the West German Government is keenly interested.

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Americans fear Libya heads the way of Afghanistan

From Patrick Bryan
Washington, March 17

Libya-watchers in Washington are inclined to discount the danger that Colonel Gaddafi will turn his country into a Soviet satellite. They believe that Libya may go the way of Afghanistan: that Colonel Gaddafi may be overthrown in a coup and replaced with a leader more amenable to Soviet wishes.

The colonel is fervently against communism because it is an atheistic, secular religion and antithetical to Islam. His constant differences with the Arab Baath Socialist Party in Iraq (now) and in Syria (formerly) derived from its secularism.

He has no wish to lose his independence to Russia, and relies on the Soviet Union and East Europe merely as arms suppliers. However, there are at least 2,000 Russian and East European advisers in Libya. Soviet influence on the armed forces is all-pervasive, and he

is so isolated in the world and among the Arabs that he is forced to associate with the Russians far more than is safe.

Colonel Gaddafi suffers from one of the world's best documented cases of egomania and believes that he can safely ride the tiger. American specialists are less sure.

The Soviet Union would like to use Libyan ports as bases for the fleet, particularly their submarines. They would like to use Libyan airfields, and Colonel Gaddafi has steadfastly refused them. A further source of Soviet dissatisfaction with him is his invasion of Chad.

The colonel announced some time ago that Chad and Libya would be merged. He believes that the Islamic northern part of that country is an ethnic and geographic extension of Libya, which he sees as the destined nucleus of a greater Maghreb Islamic East. The annexation of Chad would cater to the doves in Africa and the Russians are not

sure that they want to be seen to be associated with it.

With Soviet advisers attached to Libyan military units now in Chad, that association is inescapable. On the other hand, from the Soviet point of view, Libya is a main source of hard currency and, at least some of the time, a useful card to play in the poker game with Washington.

It is estimated here that the Russians probably get 10 per cent of their foreign exchange from selling arms to Libya, which pays in dollars. The Russians sell any amount of equipment, and the Libyans will pay for Russian arms going to other countries, too. For instance, Libya has been replacing all the MIG 23s that Syria loses in air battles with Israel, or by accident.

This is rather like the American relationship with Saudi Arabia or, rather, with Iran. The main difference is that the Americans are getting back oil.

Those are American dollars that are paying for American arms. The Russian sales to Libya represent a net gain, and apparently the Libyans pay a top price for everything.

Lastly, the Libyans sell oil to East Europe at favourable rates, thus sparing the Russians from helping their allies and allowing them to export their own oil westwards at more favourable terms.

The Libyans have accumulated enormous stocks of Soviet arms, far more than other armies of comparable size would need. There are some alarmists who fear that the stockpiles are needed for the Soviet Army, if ever it decided to move into Libya; but other experts here think the explanation is simpler.

The total Libyan armed forces number about 50,000; but Colonel Gaddafi recently decided to abolish the Army and replace it with a people's militia of the entire population in arms. He intends to have a militia of 500,000 by the end of the year, and oil companies have reported that their workers disappear for weeks on end for training.

Such a militia needs more arms than a regular army. Furthermore, standards of maintenance are very low. Libya has 3,000 tanks; but no more than 1,000 are operational. These calculations are based on the Libyans' performance in the invasion of Chad.

One expert said that the Libyans use arms, including aircraft and tanks, the way an American family uses paper plates on a picnic. Equipment is abandoned when it falls. There is always a further supply of tanks, lorries and weapons.

The Chad civil war continues. The Libyans occupy the north, but Mr Hissene Habré, the former Defence Minister, still controls the south. He pulled out of the capital when Libya occupied it in support of President Ouéddei in November.

The fighting costs the Libyans eight or a dozen casualties a week, and that could cause serious difficulties eventually. There were reports last December of demonstrations in Benghazi in which the tribes there demanded blood money from Colonel Gaddafi's tribe to pay for men killed in Chad.

The Libyans are said to have put up a better fight in Chad than they did in Uganda when an attempt to rescue President Amin ended in fiasco; but Mr Habré's forces were the equal of the Libyans. They were defeated by numbers and equipment, not by the quality of the Libyan Army.

Colonel Gaddafi still controls the Libyan armed forces, and the country. There was, however, an attempted coup in Tobruk last August and the recent economic upheavals may have caused considerable discontent.

Mr Joseph Subic, one of the Americans who were held hostage in Iran, on honeymoon in the United States Virgin Islands with his English bride, Alison.

Iran dispute stopped by ayatollah

decision made by the ayatollah—the virtual dismissal of three Muslim hardliners from the Supreme Defence Council headed by the President.

Little noticed in the initial reaction to the ayatollah's statement last night was his order that the council's formation should accord with the Constitution. Official spokesmen confirmed today that this meant that the Speaker of Parliament, Hojatoleslam Hashemi Rafsanjani, and two MPs, one the son of Iran's second highest ranking cleric, would have to withdraw.

Political observers are now waiting to see whom Ayatollah Khomeini will choose as his representative on a three-man "reconciliation council". Whoever it is will be able to tip the scales in favour of one side or the other.

Supporters of Mr Bani-Sadr acknowledged that what they had gained from the statement was bought at a heavy price—the public silence of the President. His ability to rally the public with rousing speeches against the dominant fundamentalists was his strong-

est, if not his only political weapon.

Peace mission: A group of non-aligned countries will visit Tehran and Baghdad in the first week of April to try to end the Iran-Iraq war (Kuldip Nayyar writes from Delhi).

Both Tehran and Baghdad have agreed to receive the group, formed by India, Cuba, Zambia and the Palestine Liberation Organization, as designated by the Non-Aligned Conference in Delhi last month.

Most of the Islamic countries present at the Non-Aligned Conference, felt that a political approach would be far better than a religious one. The last initiative, which floundered, was by nine-member delegations of Islamic nations led by President Sekou Touré of Guinea.

The Islamic proposals envisaged a ceasefire by March 12; withdrawal of foreign troops within nine months; demilitarization of vacated areas; supervision of the ceasefire by Islamic countries; and negotiations between Iran and Iraq under United Nations auspices.

Relatives of Mr Nevins, who developed a fever four days after the test and died a month later, are seeking about \$5m in damages from the United States Army, which acknowledges that 800,000 people were exposed to the bacteria.

or six days in September, 1950, a navy ship sprayed San Francisco with bacteriological fog, according to papers given to relatives under the Freedom of Information Act. Eighteen people were treated in hospital for bacteria traces.

The Army said the test was carried out to see how bacteria aimed from the sea at an American city would be distributed. Two types of bacteria were used. One is known as serratia and Mr Nevins, who was 73, died by pneumonia. He had had serratia pneumonia.

Mr John Kern, a lawyer representing the Government told Judge Samuel Conti yesterday that a different type of bacteria had killed Mr Nevins, and not the army bacteria, which had been declared harmless by an army panel.

The Government intends to call doctors and germ warfare experts to defend the test on national security grounds.

In report, surrendered to a subcommittee of the Senate committee on human resources, disclosed that the Army had conducted 229 "open air" germ warfare tests between 1949 and 1969. These included the San Francisco test.

In some tests, inert chemicals had been used. In others live bacteria presumed to be harmless, the report said.

This report, describing the San Francisco test, said the navy ship had sprayed the bacteria, named as serratia marcescens, into the ocean.

One hospital in the area reported 11 cases of infection, caused by the bacteria, the report said. The Health and Human Services Secretary said it was "very risky" to assume germs released into a populated area could ever be considered safe.—Reuter.

Back to the clothesline in California

From Ivor Davis
Los Angeles, March 17

Clotheslines are to make an unsightly but welcome come-back this week—in all places—the affluent California college community of Palo Alto, as part of a novel campaign aimed at saving energy, by not using electric dryers.

The city fathers decided to quash an ordinance which has been in existence for five years prohibiting residents from airing their laundry on clotheslines in public. Offenders in Palo Alto, home of the celebrated Stanford University

about 40 miles south of San Francisco, faced stiff fines if they dared to break the law.

Now, says Mrs Jeanne Clinton, manager of the city's conservation and solar energy programme, householders can legally let it all hang out. She estimates that they can save up to \$18 a year if they do this instead of using electric dryers.

Washing, blowing in the breeze, is an apt symbol to remind citizens to conserve energy, she notes, adding: "It plants the idea in people's minds. Even the slightest individual savings of energy can have a cumulative effect."

Portugal protests to Cuban envoy

Lisbon, March 17.—Extra police were posted round the Cuban Embassy in Lisbon today and Senhor Andre Gonçalves Pereira, the Portuguese Foreign Minister, protested strongly to the Cuban Ambassador over an incident in Havana in which the Portuguese envoy had been alleged to have a CIA link.

Fossil dating back 350 million years

Moscow, March 17.—Soviet geologists working on the coast of the Barents Sea in the high Arctic have found a "sensational" fossil image of plant life dating back 350 million years, the Tass news agency reported from Arkhangelsk. Its dimensions, 13in long and 20in wide compared to the usual matchbox size of previous fossils

General Viola confident of better Washington links

From Our Own Correspondent
Washington, March 17

General Roberto Viola, the President-designate of Argentina, who is in Washington on an official visit, said yesterday that he was "absolutely sure" that relations between the two countries would improve. He is to be sworn into office at the end of the month, five years after the coup that established the military regime.

The General saw Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, yesterday and is seeing President Reagan this afternoon. He is also seeing Mr Caspar Weinberger, the Secretary of Defence, and congressional leadership.

General Viola said yesterday that in his talks with Mr Haig, "we spoke of all the problems in the relations between the two countries. The main goal of my conversation was to establish very fluid communication channels between the United States and Argentina, to upgrade relations to an optimum level."

These relations have not been very cordial of late, because of human rights abuses in Argentina. The military government that overthrew President Maria Estela Peron in 1976, severely suppressed domestic opposition and was constantly criticized

for it by President Carter's Administration.

In its defence, the Argentine Government claimed that the country was sinking into anarchy under the Peron regime, that left-wing terrorism would destroy the state, if it were not stopped, and that in war, all means were justified.

The Carter Administration rejected these claims but they have been accepted by President Reagan.

Call it a Vatican: Argentina drafted a message today objecting to parts of the Pope's proposed settlement of a border dispute with Chile, and called for further mediation by the Vatican, western diplomatic sources said. Chile accepted the proposal last January, after 19 months of mediation (AP reports from Buenos Aires).

The dispute, which led the two countries to war in 1978, is over 10 islands at the southern tip of South America and its surrounding waters.

Senor Guillermo Moscové and General Ricardo Etcheverry Bono, the Argentine delegates to the mediation talks, were assigned to deliver the Government's "observations" on the Holy See's suggestions to Cardinal Antonio Samoré.

Britain not keen to remain in Belize

By Our Diplomatic Staff

Britain is reluctant to leave its troops in Belize after the former colony becomes independent, as is indicated by a statement by Mr George Price, the Prime Minister.

The British want to have most of the 1,600 troops home within a year from the swampy savannahs of Belize.

Speaking on Belize radio after announcing details on Monday of the outline agreement aimed at settling the Guatemala-Belize territorial dispute, Mr Price said he hoped Britain's 1,600 troops would remain in Belize to guarantee security after independence.

In line with United Nations wishes, Britain hopes Belize will be independent by roughly Christmas this year.

Until then, the Foreign Office wants to avoid committing itself to the troops. "We will do what is necessary at the time," a spokesman said yesterday. "We will not leave Belize in the lurch, but we have said all along that an agreement with Guatemala would be Belize's best security."

In the meantime, details of the outline agreement have received tepid public response in Belize and Guatemala. Newspapers in Guatemala are accusing its negotiators of selling its territorial aspirations in exchange for a small Caribbean sea channel, a patch of seabed and access to a dirt-track through Belize.

The Belize press, for its part, sees in these aspects of the outline agreement infringements on Belize's sovereignty.

Parliamentary report, page 9

US Army denies its germ test was lethal

San Francisco, March 17.—The United States Government denied in court yesterday that a germ warfare test, which had created a bacteria-laden fog here 30 years ago, had killed Mr Edward Nevins, a wealthy businessman.

Relatives of Mr Nevins, who developed a fever four days after the test and died a month later, are seeking about \$5m in damages from the United States Army, which acknowledges that 800,000 people were exposed to the bacteria.

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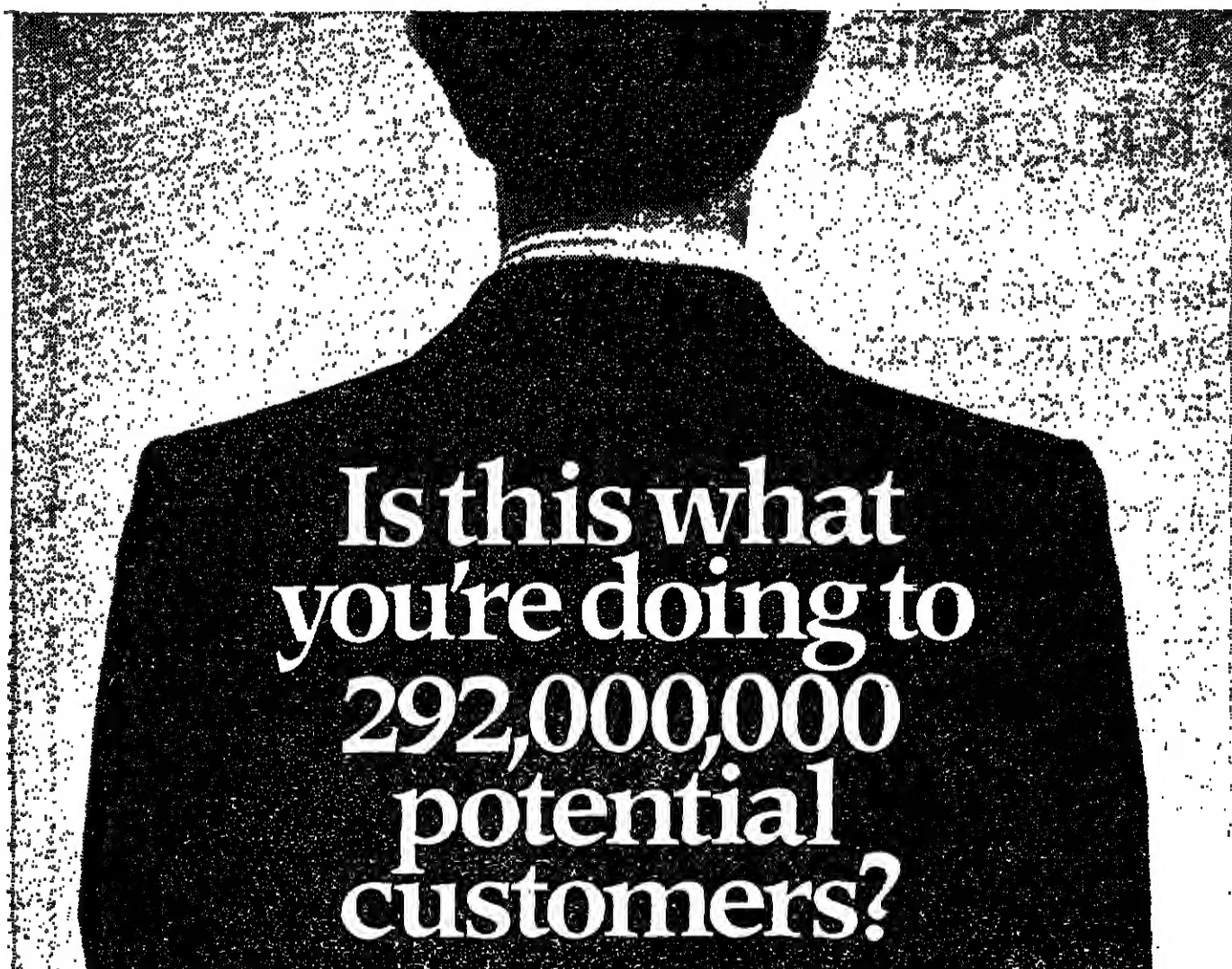
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Mr Joseph Subic, one of the Americans who were held hostage in Iran, on honeymoon in the United States Virgin Islands with his English bride, Alison.

Ambassador has name posted by US club

From Michael Leppman
New York, March 17

Sir Nicholas Henderson, the venerable British Ambassador in Washington, has been publicly arraigned here by having his name posted on the board of the exclusive Metropolitan Club as an alleged debtor.

His spokesman in Washington says it is all a dreadful mistake and that Sir Nicholas has never been to the club, although he was given an honorary membership last year.

The amount of the debt, reported today in the *New York Post*, is \$50,611 (£22,800). The notice on the board says that Sir Nicholas has been suspended from the club because of his failure to pay it.

The embassy spokesman said today that Sir Nicholas had received a "bill" for a "house charge" of that amount about three weeks ago. He wrote, pointing out that it must be an error, since he had never crossed the club's elegant portal, just round the corner from Fifth Avenue, by Central Park and the Plaza Hotel. No reply to his letter has been received, the spokesman said.

Sir Nicholas first knew of his purported pilfering of the notice about a week ago, when he was on board when reporters phoned the embassy to ask about it. At the club today, nobody was immediately available to comment on the dispute.

The *New York Post* printed a waspish item in its gossip column about the alleged debt. "If Sir Nicholas can't pay his bills at the club, how can he be expected to scrape up the fare to attend the royal wedding?" the columnist wondered.

Sir Nicholas, a former ambassador to France and Germany, is 66. He was brought out of retirement in 1979 to replace Mr Peter Jay as Ambassador in Washington.

General Viola confident of better Washington links

From Our Own Correspondent
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General Roberto Viola, the President-designate of Argentina, who is in Washington on an official visit, said yesterday that he was "absolutely sure" that relations between the two countries would improve. He is to be sworn into office at the end of the month, five years after the coup that established the military regime.

The General saw Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, yesterday and is seeing President Reagan this afternoon. He is also seeing Mr Caspar Weinberger, the Secretary of Defence, and congressional leadership.

General Viola said yesterday that in his talks with Mr Haig, "we spoke of all the problems in the relations between the two countries. The main goal of my conversation was to establish very fluid communication channels between the United States and Argentina, to upgrade relations to an optimum level."

These relations have not been very cordial of late, because of human rights abuses in Argentina. The military government that overthrew President Maria Estela Peron in 1976, severely suppressed domestic opposition and was constantly criticized

for it by President Carter's Administration.

In its defence, the Argentine Government claimed that the country was sinking into anarchy under the Peron regime, that left-wing terrorism would destroy the state, if it were not stopped, and that in war, all means were justified.

The Carter Administration rejected these claims but they have been accepted by President Reagan.

Call it a Vatican: Argentina drafted a message today objecting to parts of the Pope's proposed settlement of a border dispute with Chile, and called for further mediation by the Vatican, western diplomatic sources said. Chile accepted the proposal last January, after 19 months of mediation (AP reports from Buenos Aires).

The dispute, which led the two countries to war in 1978, is over 10 islands at the southern tip of South America and its surrounding waters.

Senor Guillermo Moscové and General Ricardo Etcheverry Bono, the Argentine delegates to the mediation talks, were assigned to deliver the Government's "observations" on the Holy See's suggestions to Cardinal Antonio Samoré.

Britain not keen to remain in Belize

By Our Diplomatic Staff

Britain is reluctant to leave its troops in Belize after the former colony becomes independent, as is indicated by a statement by Mr George Price, the Prime Minister.

The British want to have most of the 1,600 troops home within a year from the swampy savannahs of Belize.

Speaking on Belize radio after announcing details on Monday of the outline agreement aimed at settling the Guatemala-Belize territorial dispute, Mr Price said he hoped Britain's 1,600 troops would remain in Belize to guarantee security after independence.

In line with United Nations wishes, Britain hopes Belize will be independent by roughly Christmas this year.

Until then, the Foreign Office wants to avoid committing itself to the troops. "We will do what is necessary at the time," a spokesman said yesterday. "We will not leave Belize in the lurch, but we have said all along that an agreement with Guatemala would be Belize's best security."

In the meantime, details of the outline agreement have received tepid public response in Belize and Guatemala. Newspapers in Guatemala are accusing its negotiators of selling its territorial aspirations in exchange for a small Caribbean sea channel, a patch of seabed and access to a dirt-track through Belize.

The Belize press, for its part, sees in these aspects of the outline agreement infringements on Belize's sovereignty.

Communists ruled out as Socialist partners

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, March 17

In his first appearance on television in the current election campaign, M. François Mitterrand, the Socialist candidate, replied categorically that there was no question under present circumstances of Communists being given ministerial responsibility. If he became President next May, Communist participation in a left-wing government would only become possible when that party had abandoned its present hard line on home and foreign affairs.

The threat of the Communist participation in a Socialist-led government is the weakest point in M. Mitterrand's platform,

M Mitterrand seizes opportunity of using 'Pravda' article to discredit his principal rival

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, March 17

The large pebble cast by *Pravda* into the French electoral duckpond last Friday continues to cause increasingly wider ripples. M. François Mitterrand, the Socialist candidate for the presidency, said on television last night that he understood why the Soviet newspaper, that is to say the Soviet Government, was pleased with President Giscard d'Estaing.

"It was natural that he should receive a wage for his journey to Warsaw," M. Mitterrand said. "Why is *Pravda* displeased with me? Because I did not wait 11 days to protest against the invasion of Afghanistan, like the outgoing candidate."

A further reason for Soviet displeasure was that he had publicly drawn attention to the threat to Western Europe from Soviet SS20 medium range missiles. Another consideration which weighed in the Soviet Government's attitude was that it usually favoured the man in power.

M. Giscard d'Estaing earlier told representatives of 14 regional newspapers — with reference to the *Pravda* article — that "the only votes I ask for are those of French men and women. I ask for no others."

The Soviet daily, in a report on the campaign, had said: "M. Giscard d'Estaing has gained personal authority as a cautious and reserved politician, in particular in the international arena."

The *Pravda* article came after the strictures of M. Jacques



M. Mitterrand: Only wants votes from the French.

Chirac and M. Mitterrand against the "weakness" of the Government's policy towards Russia, and its failure to react energetically to Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

M. François-Poncet, the Foreign Minister, in a full page interview in *France Soir* yesterday, weighed into the controversy. "That appreciation is made not only in Moscow but in Washington, Bonn, London and Geneva and indeed in all the major capitals," he said.

"The voice of France is heard. Our country counts in the affairs of the world. What is this due to? Largely to the authority, self-control, experience and personal prestige of the President of the Republic."

"There is only one quarter

in which this evidence is contested: among the candidates to the Elysée. The reasons are easy to understand."

The *Pravda* article, after its positive judgement on President Giscard d'Estaing's policy, mentioned the economic situation and went on to say that "the political opponents of M. Giscard d'Estaing made him carry responsibility for unemployment, the trade deficit, and inflation."

But it did not identify itself with these opponents. Of M. Chirac, the paper noted that he found himself in a "complicated situation."

"As for M. Mitterrand, he had no 'clear and consequent political programme' trying to reconcile the 'often very contradictory interests of broad groups of voters'."

Pravda repeated the French Communist charge of the "switch to the right" of the French socialists and wondered whether its opportunism would not lead them to some compromise bargain with the "bourgeois parties of the centre."

M. Georges Marchais, the Communist candidate, was quick to point out over the weekend that *Pravda* also emphasised that he had a "clear and straightforward" programme for the defence of the interests of the working people and for a "really independent foreign policy."

M. Marchais added that he was opposed to all interference by a foreign political leader in French politics. "The policy of France is decided neither in London, nor in Washington, nor in Bonn, nor in Moscow but in Paris and nowhere else," he said.



French Presidential Election

and the one, naturally, most exploited by his opponents. He could not afford to allow uncertainty about his intentions on this point to endure without serious damage to his electoral prospects.

M. Mitterrand did not, however, make it clear which way majority he would govern if he were elected.

Major Haddad warned that UN troops in Lebanon will fire if attacked again

From Robert Fisk
Tibnin, southern Lebanon
March 17

In the strongest statement of its kind yet made by a commander of United Nations troops in Lebanon, Major-General William Callaghan today angrily denounced the "barbaric killing of two of his Nigerian soldiers by the Israeli-backed militia of Major Saad Haddad."

The general issued a warning that the United Nations force here would "protect itself with the defensive weapons at its disposal" if it was attacked again. The United Nations in Lebanon, he said, would not be "intimidated by wanton and brutal acts". He added: "It is never open to me to negotiate under threat of fire and it is not my intention ever to do so."

Previously, under General Callaghan's predecessor, Major-General Emmanuel Erskine of Ghana, United Nations troops had been ordered to fire even when attacked by Major Haddad's tanks and artillery. General Callaghan's statement today was intended as a firm and serious warning that his soldiers would no longer tolerate being shot at with impunity.

As a young Irish officer said later in his battalion headquarters at Tibnin: "It's a great feeling to know that morale is going up. It's great to now that when some bugger starts shooting at us, we can shoot back at him."

The general's words came less than 24 hours after the Haddad militia in southern Lebanon had fired shells into the Nigerian battalion area of the United Nations-controlled territory north of the Israeli frontier. A Nigerian officer and a corporal were killed and at least 16 were wounded. Two Lebanese soldiers were also badly hurt.

Immediately after this bombardment, Major Haddad's battalion observation posts around the village of Pater and it transpired today that they used phosphorus shells in their attack.

This morning, General Callaghan appeared at Tibnin only a few miles from both Yater

and Kantara, where the Nigerians died — for a St Patrick's Day medal parade for Irish troops. But the was little joy in what he had to say.

From a small podium surrounded by the national flags of the United Nations contingents serving in Lebanon, he read out — slowly and emphasizing every word — a message which he had just received from General Eitan, chief of staff of the Israeli forces.

"It is with deep sorrow and shock," the message said, "that I learnt about the incident that occurred in Kantara, where UN soldiers were killed and injured. Personally, I will do all possible to avoid recurrence of such incidents which mostly occur due to misunderstandings or provocations."

General Callaghan, however, was clearly unhappy about the contents of this message. He had decided to accept it, he said, "after much consideration" and while he thanked General Eitan for his intervention yesterday, he added: "There was no provocation and no misunderstanding on the part of UNIFIL."

The real reason for Major Haddad's attack yesterday was almost certainly the increased deployment of Lebanese regular troops in the United Nations operational zone. Major Haddad's radio station, The Voice of Hope, reported American denunciations of the bombardment in its news broadcasts this morning but spent several minutes outlining the major's reasons for objecting to the presence of a Lebanese force. They had been sent to southern Lebanon, he said, at the demand of Syria after the recent meeting between the Syrian and Lebanese presidents.

However, General Callaghan appears to be in no mood to treat with these arguments. This afternoon, two Lebanese Army convoys could be seen heading south from Sidon towards the United Nations area. It would not be an exaggeration to say that there could be some very dramatic moments for UNIFIL — and for Major Haddad's militia — in the coming days.

Mr Peres objects to US planes for Saudis

From Alan McGragor
Geneva, March 17

Strong objections to the United States decision to sell four radar early-warning aircraft (Awacs) to Saudi Arabia were voiced today by Mr Shimon Peres, the leader of the opposition Israeli Labour Party.

"This is a very serious problem for Israel," he told a press conference. The aircraft cancelled out "all radar installations, giving the Saudis a degree of control over the skies that makes life for all countries extremely difficult — an additional item in an already very tense arms race."

If the United States wanted to sell aircraft to Saudi Arabia that country should first declare itself for peace and support the Camp David agreements. "Policies should come before technology," not the other way round.

He believed that a Middle-East settlement must have political agreement as the first step.

Mr Peres, who expects to head a new Israeli Government after the June election, was no less emphatic about his country's refusal to accept Egypt in signing and ratifying a treaty on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

"Non-proliferation makes sense when you have peace," he said. "But if there is no peace how is it going to help you?"

What are you going to do with a country like Iraq, in a state of war with Israel and trying to build nuclear reactors? What is the use of being in the non-proliferation treaty with Libya and other countries?

"We are not ready to make life easy for everybody around us and be victims of everybody. If people want us to sign the non-proliferation treaty, we want the very same people to do something about bringing peace to the area."

In brief

Israeli jailed for robbing Arab

Tel Aviv, March 17.—An Israeli paratrooper was sent to jail for 10 weeks by a military court yesterday after he had admitted stealing a purse from an Arab, in a village north of Jerusalem.

The soldier was also given a suspended sentence of three months for the offence committed during a house search in Silwad last December. Another soldier who participated in the search received a suspended sentence for beating a villager.

First of Finnish jet batch in fatal crash

Helsinki, March 17.—The first Hawker Siddeley Hawk jet trainer aircraft of the Finnish Air Force has crashed in Tampere, southern Finland. One of the two pilots was killed. Finland has bought 50 Hawks and the first one, destroyed last December. Four of the jets are to be built in Britain, while the rest will be assembled in Finland.

Soviet envoy expelled

Monrovia, March 17.—The Liberian Government has declared Mr Ivan Muzikina, a Soviet diplomat, *persona non grata*. He was given 48 hours to leave the country.

Drug sales stopped

Zagreb, March 17.—The Zagreb Immunology Institute in Yugoslavia, which manufactures interferon, the cancer drug, has stopped sales of the product to private individuals because of black market dealing.

Andes tension eases

Lima, March 17.—Peru and Ecuador have begun to withdraw their border troops reinforcements, paving the way for a full resumption of ties between the South American countries, the Peruvian Government said.

French find tenth farm case of foot and mouth

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, March 17

The sanitary cordon around the village of Henansal in Brittany was extended today after the confirmation of a case of foot and mouth disease in a pig on a farm outside the area enclosed by the original cordon when the outbreak started a fortnight ago.

The cordon now extends round an area 15 miles long by three miles wide. Animals in all surrounding areas have been vaccinated.

Although the latest case, the tenth so far reported, was outside the area enclosed by the original cordon, it was on a farm where vaccination had been carried out.

106 jobless held after attack on union officers

From Our Correspondent
Naples, March 17

Naples police today transferred to prison 106 unemployed people who had been arrested after they occupied and ransacked the local headquarters of the communist-led CGIL trade union confederation during the night. They were accused of seditious activities and other charges after clashes in which 11 police and six demonstrators were injured.

In the offices of CGIL, the biggest of the Italian trade union confederations, furniture was destroyed and typewriters were looted, while cars in the street below were broken into and their radios removed.

The Naples unemployed, whose number is estimated to have grown to more than 130,000 since the earthquake in November, have formed their own organizations which have negotiated outside the trade union framework with Signor Franco Foschi, the Minister of Labour, and won promises of paid training courses for 10,000.

For over a month they have been demonstrating in the town centre almost daily.

Johnny Owen inquest

Los Angeles, March 17.—The inquest into the death of Johnny Owen, the Welsh boxer, has been postponed for the third time. A coroner's spokesman said that the latest delay was made "to compile more information".

EEC agrees to provide food aid to China

From Our Own Correspondent
Brussels, March 17

EEC Foreign ministers agreed in principle in Brussels today to provide food aid to China, which has requested it for the first time since the communists came to power more than 30 years ago.

The Chinese have made their needs known very discreetly. The Peking Government has prided itself on its ability to feed its huge population, unlike India.

China's problems have been caused by a disastrous mixture of flooding and drought in the two provinces of Hubei and Hebei, which has destroyed agricultural crops.

Estimates of the disaster varied here. British sources suggested that as many as 190

million people might be directly or indirectly affected 130 million of them acutely.

Irish officials, however, put the total at 43 million, about 45 per cent of the population of the two provinces which they estimated to have lost 50 to 80 per cent of their agricultural output.

According to the Irish, the Chinese are seeking sufficient food aid to enable them to increase food intake a head to 650 grammes a day from the present level of 400 grammes.

The foreign ministers agreed, subject to further discussion of the detail by officials, to make available to the Chinese about 2,000 tonnes of milk powder and 8,000 tonnes of rapeseed, worth just under £3m.

Jailed Swiss spy conducts a phone-in

From Our Correspondent
Geneva, March 17

Mr Jean-Louis Jeanmaire a former brigadier in the Swiss army now serving an 18-year sentence on charges of passing secrets to a succession of Soviet military attachés in Bern, has astounded the public by speaking live from prison on the main programme of Radio Suisse Romande.

His trial, in June 1966, was the high point of the most sensational espionage affair in Switzerland. Before retiring he had commanded civil defence troops.

A telephone call from Mr

Jeanmaire to the presenter of a radio programme dealing with his case went straight on to the air in phone-in fashion. Mr Jeanmaire, now aged 71, asked that extracts from recorded interviews recently given to a journalist should not be broadcast.

"What was said in those interviews was intended for a book to be published after I had seen it, not for newspaper or radio use," he said. "One speaks differently for a book." The request was granted and the programme was shortened. How he was able to telephone the radio station direct from prison has yet to be explained.

In articles being published by a Lausanne newspaper, Mr Jeanmaire is quoted as saying that the charges against him were trumped up because of personal rivalries and in order to impress upon the country that "the Russian enemy is at the gate."

He is also quoted as saying that he had signed a confession after lengthy interrogation when he was "so morally and physically worn down" as to be incapable of reading it. Interests were carried earlier in a Zurich newspaper are described as having been obtained when Mr Jeanmaire was "on Christmas parole".

BRITAIN'S ENEMIES KNOW SOUTH AFRICA'S MINERALS ARE AS VITAL TO THE WEST AS MIDDLE EAST OIL.

Nobody underestimates the importance of Middle East oil although alternative sources do exist.

But this is not true of strategic minerals, such as manganese and chrome, both essential for making steel.

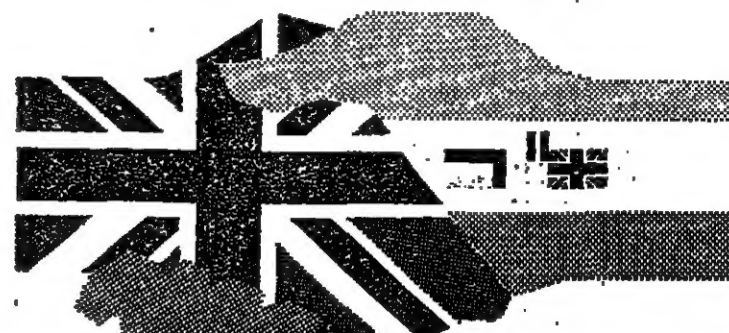
For these, South Africa is the only major source this side of the Iron Curtain.

And South Africa's platinum is necessary for refining North Sea oil.

The international role of South African gold is, of course, indisputable.

No substantial alternative sources exist in the Free World.

And there are no substitutes.



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Elections are called off in Nkomo stronghold for fear of more unrest

From Nicholas Ashford Salisbury, March 17

Plans to hold municipal elections in Bulawayo, the Matabeland stronghold of Mr Joshua Nkomo's Patriotic Front party, have been postponed for a second time.

Dr Edson Zvobgo, the Minister of Local Government and Housing, told a press conference that the elections, scheduled for March 28 and 29, had been "postponed indefinitely because of the security situation". However, municipal elections will go ahead in Salisbury as planned at the end of this month.

Referring to the recent factional unrest in Bulawayo between Zipra and Zanu guerrillas, Dr Zvobgo said that many Zipra weapons were still hidden in and around the city. He had been advised by the Minister of Defence that he would be taking a grave risk if he allowed elections in Bulawayo to be held.

Municipal elections were postponed in Bulawayo and Salisbury at the end of last year after outbreaks of violence in Entumbane and Chitungwiza townships, to which Zipra and Zanu guerrillas had been transferred from outlying assembly points. Municipal and district council elections have already been held in the rest of the country.

News of the postponement of the poll in Bulawayo was badly received by members of the Patriotic Front party. Mr Vote Moyo, the party's national organizing secretary, said the

move was designed to allow the majority Zanu (PF) party, headed by Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister, more time to become organized. Mr Zvobgo knows very well his party would not have won a single seat if the poll was held now," he said.

Europeans killed: Two more Europeans have been murdered in the farming area to the east of Fort Victoria, bringing to four the number who have been killed there during the past year.

The police today named the dead as Mrs Helena van As, who was 71, and her grandson, Mr Phillip van As, aged 20. They were shot dead while watching television in their home last night.

The farm's owner, Mr Peter van As, was away in Salisbury at the time of the attack. The van As's farm adjoins the one where Mr and Mrs Zvobgo were shot dead by two men last week. Police sources said they believed the two killings were connected.

A big search was under way today for the gunmen with police using helicopters and tracker dogs.

The killings come at a time when white farmers are becoming increasingly concerned about the decline in law and order in the countryside, particularly in areas where former armed guerrillas are present. The "Foxtrov" assembly point, where several thousand Zanu guerrillas are still stationed, is in the vicinity of the attacked farms.

EEC-backed scheme encourages tribal peoples to turn to farming

Drought brings destitution to Kenya nomads

From Charles Harrison Nairobi, March 17

At least a quarter of the 170,000 people in the Turkana district in north-west Kenya, are destitute, having lost their herds of cattle, goats and camels to drought, disease, or raids by neighbouring tribes.

They are surviving on relief food, mainly maize, being distributed at scores of locations throughout this parched, semi-desert area as part of an ambitious plan, supported by more than £450,000 in grants and food supplies from the EEC.

Stores to hold the imported maize, and a simple wooden houses for the British, American, Dutch, Norwegian and other volunteers who will help

to administer the scheme, are taking shape in several centres. Devised in consultation with the Kenya Government, missionaries and aid organizations, the EEC-backed scheme aims to rehabilitate the Turkana people by allowing them to be self-reliant.

The Turkana are semi-nomadic and normally live entirely on their cattle and goat herds. They are, however, being encouraged to grow food crops in areas where the soil is suitable, and where water is available from seasonal rivers.

This is being achieved by making a famine relief food half a kilogram of maize per adult per day available in return for work on the new agricultural areas. Thorn scrub

is being cleared under supervision and the ground is being prepared for planting of sorghum.

The EEC also plans to finance the purchase of goats from adjoining areas which will be supplied to each family group. Mr Jean-Paul Jesse, the EEC delegate in Kenya, who has toured areas where the Turkana project is getting started, says he accepts that many people will want to abandon the new farms once livestock are again available.

But he hopes that at least a proportion of them will retain their diet and provide an assurance against the loss of their livestock in the future. To help to ensure this, adult

education, health education and farming instructors are being provided," he said.

Much depends on the weather —most parts of Turkana have had no substantial rain since 1979. The traditional rainy season is approaching and if enough rain falls to provide a good initial crop for the new farming schemes, the rehabilitation scheme should succeed.

The impression gained from a 1,000-mile tour of Turkana is that the famine is under control, although there is only a narrow dividing line between starvation and survival. Unlike neighbouring Karamoja (Uganda's famine-hit area, which borders Turkana to the west), there is a well-organized relief system operating here.

Angry Polish farmers challenge Warsaw

Warsaw, March 17.—The Government reached agreement tonight with free trade union leaders who forced the removal of three senior officials in Radom, but it faced a strike by militant farmers and threatened industrial action by timber workers.

Mr Mirosław Rakowski, Deputy Prime Minister, agreed to send a commission to study the grievances of independent unionists in Radom who responded by dropping plans for further threats of strikes.

The Government faced a new confrontation today over the occupation by about 140 farmers of the headquarters of the pro-communist Peasant Party in the northern city of Bydgoszcz. Mr Jan Kulis, the leader of the self-proclaimed Rural Solidarity union, said the sit-in in Bydgoszcz was a national protest and a continuation of a similar strike in Rzeszów that forced the authorities to recognize the union.

The authorities have consistently refused to recognize independent farmers' unions. Talks were under way in Bydgoszcz to resolve the dispute, but there was no confirmation by the strikers that Mr Lech Walicki, leader of the Solidarity movement, planned to intervene yet.

The Radom union leaders called off a threatened strike yesterday after an appeal for restraint by Mr Walesa, and when it became clear that all three officials had been released. The strikers had demanded and resigned.

The union blamed the three officials for their role in the suppression of a workers' revolt nearly five years ago. A delegation of the union negotiated with Radom officials today in talks with Mr Rakowski about other

Disconnected life support system no defence to murder

Regina v Malcherek Regina v Steel

Before Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, Lord Justice Croom and Mr Justice Smith

When medical treatment by ventilator and life support apparatus is given to a person gravely injured by an assailant, and the doctors decide that because of brain death treatment is otiose and they discontinue it, the disconnection of the ventilator and the original assailant from being responsible for the death.

The Court of Appeal so held when dealing with the question of causation in murder trials where the victim had died after being disconnected from the ventilator and life support machine.

The question posed for argument to the court was whether the judge in such cases was right to withdraw from the jury the question of causation. Was he right to rule that the evidence on which the jury could conclude that the assailant did not cause the death of the victim?

The submissions of Mr Field-Fisher, QC, for the Crown, and Mr J. J. Smith, QC, for the defence, were that the doctors, by switching off the ventilator and life support machine, were the cause of death, and that the evidence on which the jury could conclude that the doctors and not the assailant was the cause of death.

In each case it was clear that the initial assault was the cause of the grave and permanent damage to the brain and the massive abdominal haemorrhage in the other. In each case the initial assault was the cause of death, and the evidence on which the jury could conclude that the doctors and not the assailant was the cause of death.

It was a question of the court's task to inquire whether the criteria of the royal medical colleges' confirmatory tests were a satisfactory code of practice, or whether the doctors' evidence was justified in omitting one or more of the so-called confirmatory tests. The doctors were in a trial, the appellant was in an appeal.

In *R v Smith* ([1959] 2 QB 35, 423) Lord Asquith said that the test of death was not the state of the brain at the time of death, but the state of the body at the time of death. He said that the state of the body at the time of death was the state of the body at the time of death.

If a choice had to be made between *Smith* and the previous case of *R v Jordan* (1956) 40 Cr App R 152, the court would have chosen *Smith*. The court would have chosen *Smith* because it was a very special case, then *Smith* was to be preferred.

In the present cases there was no evidence that, at the time of the assault, the victim was in a state of shock or that the medical treatment was given in a state of emergency. The evidence was that the victim was in a state of shock or that the medical treatment was given in a state of emergency.

There might be occasions, although they would be rare, when the original injury could be an operating cause at all. In the ordinary case, if the treatment was given in a state of emergency, the evidence would not be admissible to show that the treatment would not have been given in a state of emergency.

In other words, the fact that the victim had died despite or because of the medical treatment was not a defence to the charge of murder. The evidence was that the victim was in a state of shock or that the medical treatment was given in a state of emergency.

So far as the grounds of appeal in each case related to the direction of the judge, the court found that the judge's direction was correct. The court found that the judge's direction was correct.

The evidence which it was sought to adduce, if received, could not be sufficient to establish a defence. The court found that the evidence was not sufficient to establish a defence.

Die criteria for confirmatory tests were not sufficient to establish a defence. The court found that the criteria were not sufficient to establish a defence.

Where methods which were generally accepted as bona fide and conducted in a state of emergency would provide any grounds for a jury concluding that the assailant in other cases might not have caused the death of the victim. The court found that the methods were generally accepted as bona fide and conducted in a state of emergency.

On April 5 it was obvious that the victim was in a state of shock or that the medical treatment was given in a state of emergency. The court found that the victim was in a state of shock or that the medical treatment was given in a state of emergency.

On April 5 it was obvious that the victim was in a state of shock or that the medical treatment was given in a state of emergency. The court found that the victim was in a state of shock or that the medical treatment was given in a state of emergency.

His Lordship said that the present case was not the occasion for any decision as to what constituted death. Modern techniques had undoubtedly resulted in the blurring of many of the traditional and conventional concepts of death. A person's heart could now be removed altogether without death supervening; machines kept the blood circulating through the vessels of the body until a new heart could be implanted in the patient.

There was, it seemed, a body of opinion in the medical profession that there was only one true test of death, namely, the irreversible death of the brain stem, which controlled the basic functions of the body such as breathing. When that occurred it was said that the body had died even though by medical means the lungs were being caused to operate and some circulation of blood was taking place.

OAU views sought on Namibia

From Our Own Correspondent Salisbury, March 17

Mr Sir John Stevens, the President of Sierra Leone and present chairman of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), arrived in Salisbury today on the second leg of a tour of black Southern African states.

During his two-day stay in Zimbabwe, he was due to hold talks with Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister, and other ministers, before flying on to Zambia tomorrow.

President Stevens is on a mission to confer with OAU heads of state before the organization's next summit conference in July. In particular, he is sounding out the views of black "Front Line" states on the problems of Namibia and South Africa after the collapse of the United Nations conference on Namibia last January.

The OAU is concerned about the more aggressive attitude being adopted by South Africa towards its black neighbours following last January's raid against African Namibia.

It is also anticipated that the western powers will use their veto when a resolution on economic sanctions against South Africa is brought before the United Nations.

Mauritania breaks with Morocco

Algiers, March 17.—Mauritania broke diplomatic relations with Morocco today after yesterday's abortive coup by two dissident officers, the Mauritanian news agency, monitored here, said.

Mauritania has accused Morocco of complicity in the coup attempt in which two palace guards were killed.

The two countries at one time waged a joint war against the Polisario movement. But after an army coup toppled President Mokhtar Ould Daddah of Mauritania in 1978, the new military Government withdrew from its zone of the Western Sahara and made peace with the Polisario movement.

In a statement broadcast on Mauritanian radio, monitored in Dakar, it was stated that the rebels had attacked the presidential palace with the intention of killing the head of state, the Prime Minister and all the members of the National Military Council.

Once it had been achieved the attackers intended to send a message to Rabat for the Moroccan Air Force to intervene, the radio said.

Morocco said today that the Mauritanian charges contained numerous contradictions.—Reuters

Rome's first woman traffic police officer, Simonetta Fioriti, aged 26, takes control of traffic in the Piazza Venezia yesterday.

Man in the news

Honest poet who leads Nigeria

By Karan Thapar

Alhaji Shehu Usman Aliyu Shagari, President of Nigeria, who arrived in London yesterday for a two-day visit, was elected 18 months ago, if not by accident, definitely not by design.

He was never a leading candidate for the National Party's nomination for the presidency. But other men, obviously acceptable to the large factions in the party, would have polarised the vote and Shagari's last-minute candidature was an attempt to bridge the gaps.

In a nation noted for its corruption, President Shagari is famous for his integrity and honesty. He is retiring and reflective, a deeply religious man and a highly-regarded Hausa poet.

Although Mr Shagari was a compromise candidate, he was

also the most experienced, having served in several ministries and state corporations and survived four coups and counter-coups and numerous inquiries.

He has served on the boards of the International Monetary Fund, and the World Bank as well as presiding over the first big "Nigerianization" of the civil service and the first significant revision of the immigration laws.

Mr Shagari has humble origins. He was born in May, 1925, in Shagari village, Sokoto state. His education started with a theological emphasis but eventually he took a degree in the teaching of science and in 1951 became headmaster of a small primary school at Argungu. Two years later he came to Britain on a British Council scholarship.

In 1958, Mr Shagari is said to have abandoned his post as promising parliamentary secre-

Gun arrest at rowdy Botha rally

From Ray Kennedy Johannesburg, March 17

A mah with a pistol in his belt was arrested tonight as Mr P. W. Botha, the South African Prime Minister, began an election meeting in the key right-wing seat of Rustenburg, 100 miles from Johannesburg.

It was not entirely clear whether the gunman had been involved in an attempt to protect or kill Mr Botha in a fiery election meeting in a constituency where passions are running extremely high between the ultra-right-wing of the party and Mr Botha's more moderate attitudes.

Lieutenant-Colonel Leon Mallett, the official police spokesman, said that several people had been arrested in a scuffle before Mr Botha's meeting and that one of them was carrying a pistol. He said that the armed man was a police reservist.

In South Africa, there are many civilians who qualify as police reservists and are allowed to carry arms. Mr Mallett said: "After the police reservist's identity was established he was released." He said that there had been a scuffle before Mr Botha entered the election meeting in Rustenburg town hall. He said: "One of those who became involved was a police reservist and during the incident his pistol fell from his holster."

The man was grabbed by other policemen on the spot but freed as soon as they realized he was one of their own. Mr Botha was addressing an important election meeting in Rustenburg where the far right faction of the National Party, the Herstigte Nasionale Party, came within 300 votes of securing a seat in a by-election 18 months ago.

The Rustenburg constituency is the centre of South Africa's platinum industry and represents some of its most far-right voters for white supremacy.

Mr Botha entered the lion's den tonight to face the ultra-conservative miners. He was greeted with boos as he walked to the platform in the town hall but countered the assault by saying that the last time he had encountered a similar reception was when he had opened an agricultural show.

Dr Obote denies that army is out of control

From Our Correspondent Nairobi, March 17

President Obote of Uganda, emphasized the need for economic recovery and improved security and said the army was out of control. He said that the army was out of control and that the government was out of control.

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Prince Sihanouk returns to centre stage role

From David Watts Singapore, March 17

Prince Norodom Sihanouk's political style has always been similar to the saxophone jazz solos with which he used to entertain visitors improvising. Some might call him pragmatic; but whatever the word, it is hard to discern any kind of a consistent theme throughout his political career beyond a continuous striving for the independence of what used to be called Cambodia.

From the unlikely address of Pyongyang, North Korea, where he is staying in a guest house provided by his "best friend", President Kim Il Sung, the prince is once again at stage centre of Kampuchean politics in circumstances some Kampuchians see as uncomfortably like those in 1975 when the Khmer Rouge came to power.

The prince's main condition for a united front under his leadership is that all parties in Kampuchea should agree to being disbanded immediately after a withdrawal of Vietnamese forces and that Kampuchea should then pass into United Nations trusteeship for an in-

definite period with elections held under international supervision.

The prince, just like the other leading candidate as head of a united front, Mr Son Sann, of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF), is under no illusions that the Khmer Rouge are willing to cede real power, long-term to any figurehead leader.

Both know that the idea of a united front is a short-term political palliative to retain the Kampuchean seat at the United Nations in the hands of the Government of Democratic Kampuchea, the Khmer Rouge, and that beyond that the life of any such united front would be precarious in the extreme with the near certainty that the Khmer Rouge would resume absolute power.

Ironically, the immediate effect of the announcement of the Prince's interest in leading a united front was profound disunity among Kampuchians. Mr Son Sann declined to attend the Pyongyang talks ostensibly because he could not afford the trip. He could, however,

afford a trip to Paris to visit his supporters there.

Recent visitors to Kampuchea say that the prince's plans have further eroded what little support he still commanded in the country; although in the heavily monitored Kampuchea of today it is hard to elicit true feelings.

Perhaps more significantly, and certainly more tragically, there are reports from the Thai-Kampuchean border that Khmer Rouge military units, emboldened by the inept alliance with the prince, have begun attacking villages and concentrations of Khmer refugees loyal to Mr Son.

The political reality is that unless the non-communist elements of a united Khmer front are given sufficient military muscle there is little chance of it getting off the ground.

Both Prince Sihanouk and Mr Son Sann know that the only thing that comes close to balancing Khmer Rouge military power is more military support. The Chinese refuse this until the united front is a fact.

Social Focus

Behind the violence, Ulster's shameful poverty

The real tragedy of Northern Ireland, usually obscured in a province where a stubborn refusal to see the wood for the trees is essential to the way of life, is that those opposed to the British connexion and those opposed to an Irish one are fighting the wrong battle.

They are encouraged in their foolishness by the general tendency in Britain to regard the increasingly distasteful Ulster link as a political and security problem with religious and ethnic overtones rather than as a social and economic problem with ethnic and religious dimensions.

The bombings and killings, the political posturing and the toings and froings continue to command the headlines, but behind them lies an awesome accumulation of social deprivation and outright poverty which can fairly be said to be a disgrace to western civilization. This has been said before, but hardly enough for it to have become a cliché.

The first Ulster person I heard saying it was Bernadette McAisley, nee Devlin, in a Londonderry pub in 1968, just as the present prolonged bout of sectarian violence began. The shooting and destruction continue in a desultory way, with Mrs McAisley very nearly becoming a fatal casualty recently. But it is still the wrong fight, and poverty goes on gaining ground at an accelerating rate without, now, noticeable discrimination between Protestant and Catholic, whatever the former may still do to the latter.

The growing problem

Political causes which turn people into demolition experts and murderers and lead them to foul their own nest with spectacular insouciance cannot be taken lightly, still less ignored. Britain has done neither, but it remains true that few British politicians are directly responsible though they now are for the province, have grasped the growing immensity of the problem of poverty there and none has done much more than tinker with it, as the present condition of the place proves.

A senior civil servant in Belfast said: "I am not sure whether money alone is the answer to Northern Ireland's troubles. I do know that there can be no solution without it."

In the regional "league tables" of social and economic indicators for the United Kingdom, Northern Ireland usually lies at the bottom

when it is best to stand at the top and vice versa. Its disadvantages are aggravated by distance, both physical and psychological.

Figures collated from various sources show the province has the highest proportion of dependent children and the highest birth rate in the kingdom. It also has the highest death rate, the lowest life expectancy and the highest infant mortality.

Northern Ireland consumes less alcohol than the rest of the UK but has the most alcoholics, a curious manifestation of local drinking patterns: more than 40 per cent are teetotal compared with about 9 per cent in Britain, but those who drink more than make up for the abstainers.

The province has by far the highest unemployment at 17.3 per cent (34.5 per cent in Strabane, more than 50 per cent in parts of Belfast) and the highest number of long-term unemployed (as well as the most self-employed). The appalling catalogue goes on and on: lowest personal and household income, greatest dependence on social security, highest domestic fuel expenditure, fewest household durables and housing amenities, highest proportion of housing unfit for human habitation, lowest reading standards (but the highest in the world for the lowest), lowest mean IQ and the highest congenital abnormality and mental handicap rates.

Such good fortune as can be found in depressed Britain, notably plentiful if not exactly cheap "home-grown" coal, natural gas and oil, is denied to the northern Irish. Even with a £40m a year subsidy from the Government, electricity costs 22 per cent more than in Britain because nearly all of it comes from oil-fired power stations. Coal costs 12 per cent more, while the small but expensive town gas network in the province is being phased out.

On her recent visit to Belfast, Mrs Thatcher promised that electricity prices in the province will be held until British's catch up with the rest of the country. This is generous. "It's like one of those 'concessions' dictators make," said a voluntary social worker in Belfast. "You take everything away from somebody, then you give him a tiny bit back, call it a concession and expect him to be grateful." The Government is also studying the possibility of piping natural gas over the border from the Republic's field at Kinsale. Even so, about two thirds of northern Irish homes rely on relatively inefficient solid fuel.

An official of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, responsible for all public sector

homes in the province to prevent discrimination by local authorities against Catholics, said the condition of the province's housing was 15 years behind Britain's. "Belfast has the worst housing in western Europe," he said.

The miserable quality of most of the city's housing in Protestant and Catholic areas alike tends to stupefy the inexperienced. The full flavour is acquired by walking round the city in the rain, not from the windows of a car, official or unofficial.

Condensation runs down the inside of windows on a mildish winter's day, attesting to damp and inadequate heating. Ingrained dirt upstair the rubble-strewn mud of a hallway glimpsed through an open door, burnt by generations of shoulders overburdened by most things except paid work.

The rats don't run

Empty houses, boarded up, and overcrowded houses bursting with people who have moved for safety into one ghetto or another look out upon the rubble-strewn mud of cleared sites or are overlooked by a high wire security fence.

"The only rat you'll see round here is on the rats," said an eloquent housewife in west Belfast. "And they don't run, they walk." That is not strictly true. The people on the streets are sometimes overweight, pasty-faced or of blotchy complexion from poor diets. The crumbling cars and swirring rubbish march the lank hair, bad teeth, split shoes and shoddy clothing all around. Troubles or no, there is much to be pitied, probably more among Catholics than Protestants. Much of this might also be found in southern Italy, but there at least the sun shines — and there is only one religion. On the Protestant Shankill Road, the benefits of being British seem as remote as the estate of the Boyne its murals celebrate.

Professor Peter Townsend, author of the trenchant work *Poverty in the United Kingdom*, once said of the Shankill Road district: "I had never before been anywhere in the United Kingdom where there were so many evident signs of poverty, and I remember two incidents in particular. In one street I saw two red-haired children selling coal by the pound from a handcart. Then a short distance away I noticed young girls looking for work in a second-hand clothes shop. This seemed to be a poignantly signifi-

cant manifestation of hardship, unique in the United Kingdom. That was in 1969. It seems no different now.

At the notorious Divis flats, slums from the day they opened, vandalism used to cost £500 a week. Intruders (presumably) urinated in the lifts, so vital to elderly people imprisoned in the tower block, and defecated in the hallways. Eventually the Housing Executive took defensive measures. Tempered steel lift doors were specially ordered from the local Harland and Wolff shipyard and two watchmen were engaged for a total of about £150 a week, an intelligent piece of job creation which produced a net saving of £350 a week.

"Unless we get a lot more money soon," said the Housing Executive official, "we won't even be able to stand still. There are 32,000 families on the waiting list, two thirds of them in acute need, and it grows by 2,000 a year."

The Executive estimates: 192,000 homes, about 37 per cent of the province's total stock. The official thought (he had no means of confirmation) that about 50,000 tenants of the executive were getting supplementary benefits and another 20,000 rent rebates. He thought that another 20,000 were entitled to help but did not draw it.

Small wonder that there is a formidable and still growing public debt in Ulster, now exceeding £13m, which represents in a province of a little more than 1.5m people a total of £20 for every man, woman and child, owed for unpaid rent, rates, electricity and gas. The statistics are difficult to disentangle because those who owe in one category are the most likely to owe in others, but it would appear that 100,000 householders share the total debt, an average of £300 each.

The public debt originated in rent and rate strikes 10 years ago and more, but administrators, social workers and other informed sources agree that the bulk of it now is evidence of inability to pay on grounds of acute poverty. The Housing Executive will increase all rents by an average 38 per cent in May on Government orders.

The Executive official said: "This is a bloody silly doctrinaire approach. We could also employ many more people and have our pick, too, but we're not allowed to do that either, for the same doctrinaire reasons."

Eileen Evason, lecturer in social administration at the New University of Ulster at Coleraine and a leading figure in the "Poverty Lobby" which gathers infor-



Slums in the Lower Falls area of Belfast

mation on need and tries to draw attention to it, has produced a number of vivid reports with catchy titles like "Ends that don't meet" and "Just me and the kids" on one-parent families, of which Ulster has far more than its fair share.

Ms Evason thinks Northern Ireland is at the end of its tether. "We are so far down the line that we can't take it any further. The social situation is explosive because of all the poverty here. People could get killed because of this. Every cent in spending has a disproportionate effect on us. Deliberate discrimination on religious grounds is fading away, but the going down the same drain. Last week's Budget will on this basis add several more turns of the screw."

Higher cost of living

It is clear that Britain's overstrained social security system cannot cope with Northern Ireland's problems, the most obvious of the several reasons being that payments are too small.

But there are other factors. There used to be positive discrimination in Ulster in that fuel subsidies took account of the higher prices charged. This practice has been abandoned. The system never did take any real account of the higher cost of

living and all the other disadvantages relative to Britain to be found in Ulster.

The system also faces the wrong way. Instead of being active in looking for ways it can help, it is passive and waits for people to find out what benefits they might be entitled to and to claim them. The forms are usually dreadfully "official" and impenetrable to all but the well-educated and practised claimant, a contrast in terms. The fear of "scrapping" has taken the heart out of the system and overrides crying need. Ulster is well represented in the recent estimate for the United Kingdom that £500m a year goes unclaimed, not the best advertisement for the welfare state. Nor is the recent Ulster Television dramatized series, intended to show what benefits exist, worthy though the motive was. Another series is planned.

The Government claims that public expenditure per head is 30 per cent higher in Ulster than in Britain, but independent observers argue the margin down to a mere two per cent when special factors such as the emergency are taken into account. Any suggestion that the Government should pour money into Ulster until it achieves social and economic parity with Britain is met with helpless references to cash limits. The same Government is pouring the balance of £70m into a factory making luxury sports cars for the American market in the middle of

a world energy crisis, for the sake of 1,000 jobs.

The more one sees of the present condition of Northern Ireland, the more convincing the argument becomes that the answer to its problem is above all well thought out injections of money in large quantities. The economic philosophy of the present Government is based on the analogy of the good housekeeper who tries to live within his means. The same good housekeeper is capable of forgoing a holiday to convert an abandoned loft into habitable living-space.

West Germany supports an enclave too, in West Berlin, which it keeps alive not only by a massive special subsidy but also by excusing residents 50 per cent of their tax liability and ensuring that they pay no more than the going rate for essentials. The population is comparable. Is there a lesson here?

It is difficult to relate Northern Ireland to Britain because of the troubles and because it is so far away. But its social and economic problems are only extensions of Britain's own malaise, and I saw nothing there I had not already seen in Strathclyde, on Merseyside and Tyneside. There was just more of it in a smaller space.

The real relevance to Britain can be set down in the form of a simple rhetorical question: what would a British Government not have done had a similar situation arisen in Kent?

Dan van der Vat

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THE ARTS

Intimate revue with its roots in the 30s

Up in the 80s: King's Head

Ned Chaillet

Dan Crawford is as clever a manager as any theatre company has. He has a way of proving popular, so far as it goes, that *Up in the 80s* is rooted deep in the 1930s. In its glamorous ocean-liner setting, the revue could even be accused of reaching back to the Roaring Twenties for its style, but the mood is morbid gaiety, depression, and I am sure that it moves at least as fast as 1933. It moves no farther, however, looking songs about neutron bombs and microchips, and a lot of the 1980s material is very resistant to immersion in the 1930s style of Neville Phillips and Robb Stewart, words and music respectively. For musical masters, Mr Stewart inclines to Kurt Weill and Noël Coward, although he knows Eizla well enough to pillage the score for Mr Phillips' political mockery in *Maggievita*. A jolly romp through "Dear Bill" country, featuring the Prime Minister as "the demon grocer of Grantham". Topical salutes to the annoyances of today are generally less successful and the picture of Coward moving stylishly among the meths drinkers and exploding embas-

sies of 1980s London is not so much satirical as sad. There are several nicely vicious observations that do come through, including the merry slander of a gay box-office clerk discussing interior decoration on the telephone while paying customers give up and head for the cinema. Such moments are sharper for their slightly poisonous exaggeration and Peter Blythe is exactly right there and elsewhere, in his instant characterization. The two women in the revue, Amanda Barrie and Sheila Reid, are similarly delightful, but the spots written for them are archaic, with images of good-time ladies falling on their backs for an entire naval fleet. Quite a few people are probably hoping that song, sentiment and comedy will be enough to get them through times of harsh budgets and massive unemployment, theatre managers, publicans and politicians among them. Mr Crawford, being at least the first to put his cards on the table, but I doubt that *Up in the 80s* has got the exact mix. A good company, which also includes Martin Smith, offers pleasure when the script allows and that could be enough. I found it too nostalgic to seem timely and too obsessed with the present to win through on sentiment. John Dane's direction, at least, sets a lively pace.

Dedicated company in quest of a text

The Theatre of Mistakes Jeannetta Cochrane

Anthony Masters

Anthropomorphic furniture seems, so far, to be one of this year's theatrical features. But between William Saroyan's *Playthings* and the Theatre of Mistakes' *Homage to Morandi* (playing lunchtime this week at the Jeannetta Cochrane) is the distance separating Handicraft and Scriabin. *Morandi* has an intellectual rigour and toughness that should commend it as stimulation for any acute, sensitive mind numbed by working-day boredom around Southampton Row, unless they are alarmed by the company's description of the play: "A work of opposition, animating with intimate, the figurative with the abstract, life with art." The 40-minute script is sustained by three actors and a stage full of portable furniture: chairs, suitcases, wardrobe. Each actor's costume identifies him by colour with one of these and, by visual and verbal means, human deployment of props develops into an exchange of roles with them. However aridly worked out, the show stealthily creates, despite the performers' rigid discipline, an intimate sense of pathos and fear which the artist Morandi would surely

have understood, as well as visibly reproducing the uneasy placements and shadows of his still lifes. It also has a vein of humour, incongruity precisely realized, that comes out more fully in the second act, *Going*. This is (and here the description is perfect) "a fable put together out of the verbal and physical mannerisms of departure". Suitable phrases, "Why do you have to go?", "I really must go", make up a subtly varied subject (in the musical sense) for a piece whose formal intricacies determine everything from word and gesture to the costume of the five participants. Successive sections, signalled by the lighting of different lamps above the black-walled set, launch the fugue-like subject on different sequences of "voices", while the introduction of new elements is as precisely calculated as it would be in Bach. As in the shorter play, sinister silences punctuate the simple statements (the control of pace is spectacular) and suggest a nihilistic and helpless imprisonment in one pattern of behaviour and one place, coldly delineated by a painted line on the stage. But, though appealing, it feels sterile; the content is over-extended, and the form is too great a strain on it. This dedicated company is still groping for the text, combining complexity, austerity and theatrical resonance, which will enable it to say what it can say and nobody else can.

Daphnis and Chloe Covent Garden

John Percival

An almost completely stuffed cast of principals in *Daphnis and Chloe* at Covent Garden on Monday still left the ballet looking sadly bedraggled. The one positive main exception was Rosalyn Whitten as Lykanon, throwing herself at Daphnis with a convincingly greedy appetite. Such a shame, then, to have him look absolutely shattered at what he apparently regarded as a fate worse than death. In fairness to Julian Hosking, whose Daphnis remained otherwise smooth but insipid throughout, he had been put on unexpectedly in place of Mark Silver, who ought to have suited the part but fell ill. The plot makes Daphnis such a droopy fellow that a dancer with some natural sharpness is needed to make anything of it. Equally, only a man of natural authority can really get away

with playing his rival, Dorkon. If you try to act tough, the solo begins to look silly, which was Michael Barchelor's undoing. That, and a couple of slips which he saved, but only just; perhaps is why some of the chorus were looking concerned when the music said they should be laughing at him. Marguerite Porter played Chloe. Hard luck on her to have a Lykanon who looked far younger than she did, but she was out of her depth anyway in a role made for Fonteyn. I could sympathize with her for not being able to wring anything like Fonteyn's pathos out of the solo in captivity, but was distressed by the fancy way she played the dance of joy at her release, turning all those wonderfully simple arm movements into affected shrugs. Michael Barchelor, Conley made a splendid debutante: fun, although ideally one would like more innocence here too. Stephen Sheriff's sprightly account of the Scottish Rhapsody set the ballet off to a good start.

Billy Cobham Round House

Richard Williams

The Camden Festival Jazz Week opened on Monday with an evening of unusual variety. We heard music which resembled advertising jingles for instant coffee, music which might have been designed specifically to soothe delayed passengers in airport lounges, and passable imitations of disco music and that egregious variety of rock and roll known as heavy-metal. What we did not hear was much jazz. The only music of lasting value, in fact, occupied around 30 seconds of the evening. It came from Ray Warleigh, the consistently imaginative alto saxophonist, who rose out of Dave MacRae's 12-piece Current Event on a piece called "Four-minute Warning" to deliver a solo which flared and died with the evanescent brilliance of a falling star. Current Event, consisting of five horns, one voice, and an expanded rhythm section, performed several of MacRae's compositions, any of which might in other contexts have been taken for incidental music. There was no evident attempt at original instrumentation, and the charts were performed in an appropriately

robotic manner largely wasting the talents of several worthy musicians. Why this project was deemed worthy of an Arts Council bursary is anybody's guess. Billy Cobham's latest venture, a quintet named Glas Menagerie, made the implicit suggestion that, rather than taking a valuable place in a heavily sponsored jazz festival, it ought more properly to be subject to the pressures of the commercial market place. The American percussionist, whose flashy exploits with the Mahavishnu Orchestra turned him, like some latter-day Buddy Rich, into a hero of the drum clinics, is a marvellous technician and a peerless session-man. Left to his own devices as a bandleader, he heads straight for the lowest common denominator. Michael Urbaniak delivered several accomplished but superficial solos on violin and lyricoon (a wind synthesizer which sounds alternately like a half-drowned clarinet and a soprano saxophone lost in a fog), and the Santana-ish guitarist, Michael Stern, was responsible for their only memorable composition, a relaxed, bluesy ballad titled "Vanessa". Cobham's own playing was certainly more inspired than on some previous occasions, and his single-stroke rolls are still as smooth as a car's purr.

Robin Williams gets a tall order in Popeye



Robin Williams (Popeye) and Shelley Duvall (Olive Oyl)

Two years ago the producer Robert Evans asked the comedian Robin Williams, familiar to British audiences from the *Mark and Mandy* television series, to play Popeye on film. "The idea terrified me when he first mentioned it," Williams admits. "But he was so positive in his approach. He asked me: 'Haven't you thought about it? Haven't you ever wanted to play Popeye?' You start by being polite and lying—Well, yes, I guess now you come to mention it I have—and end up by being convinced."

Popeye's reincarnation by a live actor comes half a century after the pugnaciously righteously sailor first appeared as one among many characters in E. S. Segars' "Thimble Theatre" comic strip. Popeye, enough to get them through times of harsh budgets and massive unemployment, theatre managers, publicans and politicians among them. Mr Crawford, being at least the first to put his cards on the table, but I doubt that *Up in the 80s* has got the exact mix. A good company, which also includes Martin Smith, offers pleasure when the script allows and that could be enough. I found it too nostalgic to seem timely and too obsessed with the present to win through on sentiment. John Dane's direction, at least, sets a lively pace.

Popeye comes back to the screen at the beginning of next month, in time for the Easter holidays. This time he is not in cartoon form, but a live actor in the shape of Robin Williams. Joan Goodman talked to Mr Williams, night-club entertainer and star of *Mark and Mandy*, in Los Angeles.

that statement as our basis. I think we made a very gentle film, we kept the innocence in." Williams, whose offstage voice is surprisingly soft and shy, worked for a year to lower his speech into Popeye's distinctive growl. At the same time, he honed his body for the strenuous, cartoon-type falls, fights and contortions the part involved. Exercising for three hours a night in the Paramount gym after spending the day on the *Mark and Mandy* stage, Williams trained with Lou Wills Jr, a veteran acrobatic dancer. "And after all that," Williams says, "when Bluto threw his first punch at me on the set, I bent forward when I was supposed to bend back and came away with a bloody nose. The sort of working schedule

Popeye demanded was nothing new to Williams, whose overnight stardom in *Mark and Mandy* has led to a succession of 16-hour and 18-hour days. Despite the reputed 30,000 dollars a week he gets for the series and the disposition—care in American television—to add his own lines in addition to the written script, Williams still finds his *Mark* role creatively stifling. That is not surprising once you have met him. Even when only two of you are present, a conversation with Williams regularly features a dozen or so extra "characters" Williams adopts, shrugs off then shuffles through at lightning speed. They include the Beverly Hills Blues Singer ("Woke up this morning... ran out of Perrier"), the children's tele-

vision host who puts a hamster in a microwave oven to demonstrate the effects of radiation ("Pop goes the weasel") and the elderly wiso from the year 2000 ("Maybe you remember me. I used to play an alien on television. Wasn't so funny after they landed"). Every Monday night, Williams can be found working inconspicuously, as is were, with an improvisation group at The Comedy Store, a Los Angeles club. One of his favourite "bits", as comics call their routines, is to ask the audience to shout out a topic; Williams will proceed to extemporize a Shakespeare play on the subject, in blank verse. Only the occasional cry of "give us *Mark*," halts his flow of comic invention. He comes to the edge of the stage and replies: "No, no, that's what I come here to get away from."

Williams is the son of a Detroit automobile executive, now retired. "The craziness comes from my mother. She's from the South. My discipline comes from my dad." Although he has several half-brothers and half-sisters, he was raised as an only child. "I was this lonely little fat kid. When I was by myself, I would invent conversations with other people. I used to tape comedians off the television and study their voices. I also collected armies of toy soldiers and took them on manoeuvres. Kind of scary, huh?" "My parents didn't mind when I said I wanted to be an actor. My father just asked me to learn a trade as well. So I'd have something to fall back on."

It was a reasonable request. I went to welding school and lasted one week until the instructor said: 'You can kill yourself if you don't use this torch properly.' I thought: 'Oh, oh, I'm not willing to die.'"

Drama training at the Juilliard School in New York, and experience as a stand-up comic in San Francisco followed, before Williams moved to Los Angeles and broke into television.

"I'm still learning how to act for the camera," he admits disarmingly. "Everything's happened as fast—this is only the third season for *Mark and Mandy*. But doing Popeye was fun. It was like going back to the discipline of acting after the freedom of stand-up comedy. We filmed on Malta for six months between January and June. It was like a holiday for me—it was wonderful to get away from being recognized and asked for autographs. Valerie [Williams's wife] and I even managed a couple of days off in London. We saw Nicholas Nickleby with the Royal Shakespeare Company, the most exciting piece of theatre I've ever seen."

Williams says he wants to do theatre himself. But first there is a film script he is writing with a partner and will star in—"Going the Woody Allen route", he laughs. Charles Joffe, who manages Williams, also manages Allen. And will he direct himself too?

"Oh, no, maybe one day, but it's years away. I saw what a director has to go through on a film set. Just getting the fake forearms I had to wear as Popeye right was a nightmare. The rubber wrinkled, they cut off circulation in my arms. Then the first costume they gave me was all wrong. So much of a film depends on thousands of dead-end little things, all of which Altmann had to oversee at once."

Joan Goodman

Exciting opera by Stockhausen

Donnerstag La Scala, Milan

William Mann

The more advanced composers of our day insist that opera is an antiquated, sterile, no longer-viable musical genre, but they cannot do without it. All music is about human experience, articulated in audible gestures or evocative tableaux, the dance and the site to be seen as well as heard, by intention wholly exhibitionistic, therefore requiring some sort of stage. However pure your creative intentions may be, however remote from the legacy of Monteverdi, Mozart, Verdi, Wagner and Puccini, your platform is a theatre, and sooner or later you cannot (and should not) resist the summons.

Karl-Heinz Stockhausen, the most restlessly questioning composer of his generation (he was born in 1928), is infinitely and completely out of sympathy with his musical inheritance, has also succumbed, and honourably. His first true opera, a work in three acts, had its premiere on Sunday at the opera-house of Mecca, La Scala in Milan. Hostages were not given to this great act of fortune: the work is totally typical, original in every respect. Stockhausen, like many of his vanguard contemporaries, dabbled for a while with music theatre, the spectacular concert-piece whose music involves performers moving round the platform or auditorium. His colleague in Cologne, the high-spirited Mauricio Kagel, must have stimulated him in that direction, though Stockhausen's identity as a composer is much more serious, visionary in purpose, his ultimate ambition to compose music for intergalactic performance, no less. He has made a fresh start by determining to compose a cycle of seven operas, one for each day of the week: the whole is entitled *Licht* ("Light"). *Donnerstag* ("Thursday"), the first of them to reach completion, is the day of Thor for us (for Italians, it is named after Jove), and for Stockhausen it belongs to St Michael, the archangel who got rid of Chaos and Old Night in their Draconian guise and who is the hero of *Donnerstag*. Stockhausen imagines the archangel descending to earth like Jesus in order to live as a terrestrial man, grow up, teach and suffer. There was material here for exciting scenes, and the libretto does specify a sort of Passion with crucifixion preceded by humiliation, though it seems to have got lost in the staging at Milan by Luca Ronconi. Michael is the son of a German schoolmaster too absorbed with history, mathematics and war-mongering to educate his son in other subjects. In the opening scene,

Michael learns to speak, to shoot wild animals, a young playmate, too, also to sing the patriotic songs which his father loves but for which Michael has not much time.

From his mother Michael learns music, and love. Her antique shop, which is a no longer-viable musical genre, but when she offers him a toy one to play he prefers his father's gift of a trumpet—not for martial fanfares but for rallying calls of a peaceful, more coaxing nature. Mother produces two other children, also a female dancer, an extension of herself whom little Michael watches with fascination. The gentle melodious warbling of the bass-horn returns to him in adolescence, personified by a girl, half-bird, who plays that instrument in a forest where he is walking with his trumpet, and who completes his sexual education.

The mother suffers a nervous breakdown and dies in a mental hospital. Father goes to war, and is killed, together with his trombone-playing and dancing other selves. They return, disguised, as the jury of Michael's entrance examination to musical conservatory: he passes, with flying colours, in singing, trumpet-playing and ballet, recapitulating his childhood experiences in terms of his relationships with, respectively, mother, father and independent self. An important trumpet concerto is Michael's piano accompanist, a role expressly designed for, and forthrightly played by, Stockhausen's daughter, Majella.

That is the first act of *Thursday*, musically conveyed by electronic background to song, speech, a whole vocabulary of extraordinary articulate sounds, with which all three characters punctuate their singing, and instrumental solos, plus choral music pre-recorded in Germany and relayed around the auditorium here. In the second act, Michael and his trumpet betake themselves to the South Pole, where they find a large symphony orchestra, as penguins (for practical purposes only non-playing extras actually wear penguin-heads, but formal evening dress makes the required effect for the orchestra players). A huge model globe dominates the stage. Michael enters it, and proceeds to travel round the world making seven stops, in Japan, India, New York, Israel and so on, places which Stockhausen, too, has notched up his triumphs. This act is purely orchestral, a dramatic trumpet concerto which includes dialogues between Michael and members of the orchestra (including an outstanding exchange for trumpet and double bass); there are other instrumental characters, too, notably a pair of clowning clarinet-players whose banner brings a welcome sense of humour to the predominantly serious proceed-



Karl-Heinz Stockhausen

ings. Mondvee, Michael's bass-horn, avian sweetheart, returns also, recalling him from his travels for an instrumental love duet and final departure, together, pursued by caravans from the clowns. It is all high-spirited, and eventful, large-textured music in which one does not have time to regret the absence of singing voices. They will return in the third act, which takes place in Heaven where Michael and Mondvee are welcomed by Mother Eve with a festival of song, choral music, dance, botany and coloured light-pictures. We move here quite close to the more recondite of Goethe's special studies, and indeed the form of this third act has not a little in common with the final scene from part two of *Faust*, as set by Mahler in his eighth symphony. Lucifer, a projection of Michael's father, makes an unwelcome intrusion, but is finally ejected, and the opera ends with a vision in which the three Michaels take their leave of the audience.

Donnerstag is something of a Stockhausen family affair. The light-compositions, in the final act, are the work of his wife, Mary Bauermeister; Michael the trumpeter is his son Markus, a virtuoso soloist in his own right; and besides Majella the pianist, another son, Simon Stockhausen, has a role as saxophonist on stage in the third act—he may also have been envisaged as one of the clowns in Act II. Obviously the last act is the culmination of *Donnerstag*. Alas at the world premiere it could not be performed: the chorus of La Scala, having been told by Stockhausen to sing like soloists (if I understand their statement aright, demanded to be paid as soloists. The management of La Scala refused, and so the chorus equally refused to appear. There are hopes that the dispute may be settled before this first series of performances is over. Those of us who live elsewhere had to be content with

two acts only. We had the consolation of Carl Aulenti's exquisitely imaginative scenic designs in a style of heightened realism, most evocative in the forest with huge attendant bird-figures. Ronconi's production is sympathetic, bold and eminently resourceful, with Kabuki-style stage-bands clad in black and virtually invisible. Great praise is due to the orchestra of La Scala, and the conductor, Peter Eötvös, fully a match for the special demands of the second act—the influence of La Scala's chief conductor, Claudio Abbado, was much in evidence. For the principal singers, Robert Gambill as Michael, Annette Meriwether as Eva and Matthias Höller, a splendid bass, as the father Lucifer, no applause could be too ecstatic: words, pitch precision and complete naturalness of delivery and movement made this new and challenging opera seem hardly controversial at all. As we left the theatre, trumpets stationed in first-floor windows on all sides of the square played Michael's Leit-motif in sweetly harmonious polyphony, as the planned coda to the composition, a lovely idea. I do hope that the scenarios for the rest of Stockhausen's operatic week will make *The Ring* look almost an epigram. Involve rather more dramatic conflict and invigorating incident. As Goethe put it, one can bear anything except an unbroken succession of beautiful days.

Cast changes in Coppelius

Dudley von Loggenburg is undergoing medical treatment and was therefore replaced last night in London Festival Ballet's production of *Coppelius* at the London Coliseum by Ben van Cauwenbergh. At the Saturday matinee Jay Jolley will be making his debut in the role of Franz, and next Wednesday Nicholas Johnson will dance the role.

RSC to do La Ronde

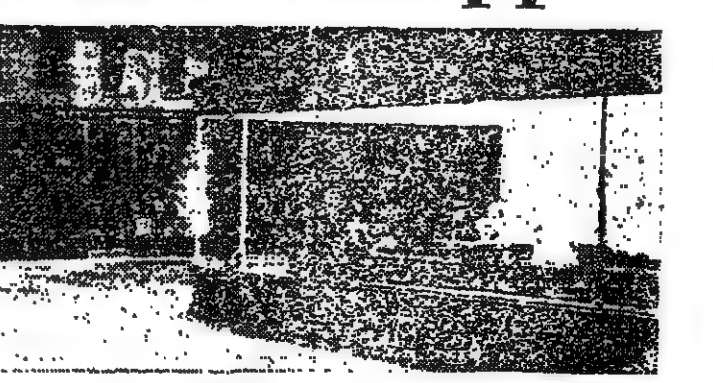
The Royal Shakespeare Company is to present Arthur Schnitzler's play *La Ronde* in London next January, in a production by John Barton with a cast including Susan Fleetwood, Richard Pasco, Judy Buxton, Michael Pennington, Barbara Leigh-Hunt and Carol Royle.

Maxwell Davies works for Bath Festival

The premiere of Peter Maxwell Davies's piano sonata, given by Stephen Pruslin, will be one of a series of first performances at this year's Bath Festival, which also presents the first English performance of the composer's opera *The Light-house*.

In the festival, from May 22 to June 7, there will be premieres of an electronic work by Denis Smalley, *Word Within*, a new piano work by Nigel Osborne, and John Mayer's *Ragamalas* for cello and tan-pura. Among the artists appearing will be Julian Bream, the Beaux Arts Trio of New York, Andre Techintsky, Bob Berkly and Cécile Ousset.

Edward Hopper



11 February-29 March Hayward Gallery South Bank London SE1 also showing: William Johnstone

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Some of the notices on this page are reprinted from yesterday's later editions.

SPORT

Reasons for Liverpool to tread with caution

[illegible]

chances, but once the second goal

[illegible]

Wasteful Wolves fluff a marvellous opportunity

by his own inaccuracy and then the bar got in the way when Hughes, who was playing his first senior game for three months, was sent off for a foul.

Since the almost endless category of near things originated from Birmingham's benevolence and not any scandalising straining of performance, Wolfe, the referee, was scarcely surprised when the spectators were scarcely enlightened. Birmingham had some excuse. Circumstances had prevented them from playing for 17 months.

Not even Worthington had expected much of his usual improvisation until he first served notice that Birmingham might win the title. He produced a shot that was a masterpiece of accuracy and Evans's attempt to score from the rebound was thwarted by Berry at the painful expense of a collision

said they had to carry their own

[illegible]

THIRD DIVISION: Exeter City &

FOURTH DIVISION: Peterborough
Spilby & Trammere Rovers.

SCOTTISH PREMIER DIVISION:
G Celtic & Partick Thistle; Rangers &
Dundee United.

SCOTTISH FIRST DIVISION: Dundee
& Dumfries; Athletic & Falkirk &
Motherwell; Hibernian & St. Johnstone.

SCOTTISH SECOND DIVISION: Green-
ock & Clyde; Montrose & Meadow-
bank; Stenhousemuir & Brechin City.

ALLIANCE PREMIER LEAGUE:
Northwich Victoria & Scarborough.

Gooch and to postpone

From John Woodcock
Cricketer Correspondent
Bridgetown, March 17

albeit briefly, of the West India
fast bowlers. Vivian Richards
came on here this evening pur-
suing seemingly trifling little
breaks and ended their hopes
making a fight of the third Test
match. He removed Gower first
after he and Gooch had added 11
and then Butcher; so, when a
day ended with England 166
five, there was nothing much to
for tomorrow. England's target

innings. Less friendly was the way the ball from Richards, which had him leg before on the back foot this evening, shot straight along the ground. That was 13 for four with nearly an hour left.

When Botham was caught a first slip off Roberts, He, Boycott, Gatting and Butcher, four of the first six in the order, had scored four runs between them. Goodie continued until the end, no longer a symbol of hope but at least setting the others an example. The Willey was with him as the

[illegible]

100

Siemen has e

By Peter West
Rugby Correspondent

Before the start of the Calcutta Cup match last month, a former Scotland international of much distinction who will be relieved to remain nameless, expressed the view that Mike Siemen was somewhat of the hill The England and British Lions wing then caused him to reconsider that verdict by scoring one memorable try for himself, setting up another for Eluw Davies with a remarkable sense of vision, and putting the stamp of a world class player on a striking side.

Against France on Saturday, Siemen will be winning his twenty-fourth consecutive cap.

fewer than C. N. Lowe, of Blackheath, between 1913 and 1922. Only one England wing, Peter Squires, of Harrogate and Yorkshire, has worn more caps (29) for his country. The total of David Duckham, the most capped of England backs with 36, includes 14 matches at centre.

It seems probable that England's players will be offered full call-ups for the two internationals in Argentina in May and June, but Slernen will not be playing. He has decided that he needs a rest after two summers away from home. Slernen feels he owes a debt to the school where he teaches, Merchant Taylors'. Crosby. "And", he

RESULTS: 1. Emanuel 7:20.8; 2. Shrewsbury 7:20.7; 3. St. Edward's 7:20.7; 4. Radley 7:21.1; 5. Winchester 7:23.3; 6. Elon 7:23.5; 7. Pangbourne 7:24.8; 8. Hampton 7:25.4; 9. Tiffin 7:26.4; 10. equl. Stuplake, Bedford Modern 7:26.5; 12. St. Paul's 7:26.8; 12. St. Edward's R 7:26.9; 14. Bedford 7:27.8; 15. Eton 8 7:40.2; 16. Shrewsbury 8

Westlake 17 8:45 23 13. Ewaldson 16
7:12. 37. 20. Bedford 8 7:45. 0.

PENNANTS: Eighth: Open - Emanuel 2
7:10. 3. Junior 16: St. Edward's 8
7:38. 4. Junior 15: St. Edward's 8
7:45. 4. Junior 14 restricted: St. Edward's 8
Junior 13 restricted: St. Edward's 8
Junior 12: Waukesha 2 8:11. 3. Junior 11 restricted: St. Edward's 8
Junior 10: St. Edward's 8
Pennant: Norwath 7 7:34. 6. Forwards: 1.
John Mason 7 7:30. 6. 2. St. Edward's 8
7:30. 6. Backs: Agency 8
Stredens 8 1:10. 5. George Hrtlof's 8
8:10. Pennant winners Head: John
Mason 8 7:30. 6. Leonard 8 7:30. 6.
Clean restricted: Shipman 8 8:41. Junior
16 restricted: Stourparr 8 8:41. Junior
15 restricted: St. Edward's 8
Windsor 8 8:50.

**the force
gaining**

vest, particularly from Mrs. Sullivan and her partner. Three times in the first four holes she was able to shoot a bird, and she needed three putts, on one occasion two from within a foot. Her husband, who is a professional, needed within an inch or two of the ninth hole and thereafter they played model par golf. They finished the round with a score of 34, a chip to 8 ft by Mrs. Uzzell and a good putt by Miss Aiken set the pace. The Uzzells shot 41, five over par and back in 35 one under.

Mrs. Benka, once better known as Miss Fredrick, played what she called a "weird" round with Mrs. Sutton, once better known as Miss Ward, and still better known as Miss Benka. The latter was the victor, 35 to 36.

Their report was hilarious. They started 4, 7, 6 and finished 6, 5, 5, 5.

During the intervening holes they completely lost their form. Mrs. Benka began to mis-hit her second shot on the flag and Mrs. Sutton began to mis-hit her ram home the putts. In this way

from the fourth, and at the next Mr Sutton so comprehensively fluffed a bunker shot that Mrs Benka's putt was little more than

LEADING SCORES: 75: Miss G. Stewart and Miss P. Wright; 77: Mrs. A. Ulrich and Miss W. Ailfin; 78: Mr. P. Bonke and Mrs. B. Sutton; 79: Mrs. F. Thomas and Miss J. C. McKenna; 80: Miss J. Walker and Miss C. Baller; 81: Miss V. Saunders and Miss C. Houshane; 80 Mrs. A. Donaldack and Miss G. Bonnellack; 82: Mrs. L. Robertson and Mrs. W. Woodruff; 83: J. Bald and Miss V. McAllister; Mrs. J. Chapman and Mrs. J. Schmitt; 81: Mrs. A. Butler and Mrs. W. Moore.

Auckland. March 17.—An
broken fifth wicket stand of

and between Vengskarik and kept India's hopes alive in the test match on March 26. New Zealand were today the 12 who were 128 behind on the Test innings after dismissal of the batsman, who was 177 for four at the close of the fourth day today.

The touring team's main aim is that their slow bowlers will be the key to their success in the New Zealand off spinners. Bracewell. He took two for 32 over and helped to reduce India to 92 for the loss of three wickets with the wicket of the batsman with wicket and Paul, tilted the balance.

Viewsmant who totalled 11 in his previous Test innings, 46 before being run out when he was called for a sharp single. and Vengskarik, who was four in the first Test. The revival sustained by Paul, who was aggressively for an unbeaten

passive role and was 20 not

[illegible]

s to achieve

stayed there, more or less, of course."

A memory of Slemen dropping goals from midfield leads me to wonder where he is a stand-out player. "Well, yes, in a way he concedes," You see more the ball in that position. But, he's got to be in a place to have ambitions to perform there as a senior level."

England's task for Saturday will be very difficult. "France have won three matches—perhaps without great expectations when it all started. But they've got a lot to play for. In this England side is capable of winning if the forwards can get the platform right. I thought the

my hat off to Colin Smart, who battled away in an unfamiliar race on the tight head side."

Roland Bertranne, the French centre, will equal Benolt Dauga's national record of 50 caps against International Board countries on Saturday. Bill Beaumont, who set a new record for an English

captain in the new match of the championship against Wales. He will be leading his country for the seventeenth time. His thirtieth c will put him level with Eric Evans and seventh in the all-time England list, those ahead of him being Neely (43), Puffin (42), Duckha (36), Rogers (34), W. W. L (30), Wakefield (31) and Corton (31).

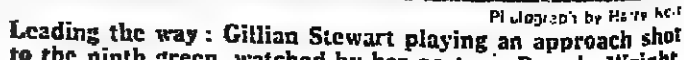
The British have been pressing for some time for a world trade to be set up, but it has landed in their laps as the nation's economy is nearly on its last legs and sponsors' purse strings are tightening. Norwich Union, which already sponsors show jumping and light tennis, has now sponsored

The four going to San Antonio for the state face exams in June and are thus unavailable for various other international events. Left behind are such notables as Sarah Parker from Surrey, anxious about her 15-year-old horse Birkdale, who needs a daily bath because of a skin complaint, and Jeanne Chalmor, from Andover, who is a U.S. Army corporal PTI and married.



1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 2679, 2680, 26

Photograph by Harry Kell
 art playing an approach shot



SPORT

Racing

Sea Pigeon acclaimed the horse for a kingdom

By Michael Seely

Sea Pigeon still reigns supreme at Cheltenham. No other horse has ever been cheered so loudly as was the Champion hurdler in the final of the Champion Hurdle at Cheltenham yesterday.

"He's magic," John Francome, his jockey, said afterwards. There was more than a touch of magic in Francome's handling of Sea Pigeon. The horse, who had been a man alive could have bettered the way in which he rode Sea Pigeon. The final pattern of the race took shape at the third flight from home as Polardstown overtook his pacemaker and jumped the front. Racing to the last hurdle there were four horses in the lead. Sea Pigeon, Polardstown, Ruda and the stable companion, Sea Pigeon and Starline. Unbelievably, Francome still had Sea Pigeon on a tight rein to prevent him from making his run too soon.

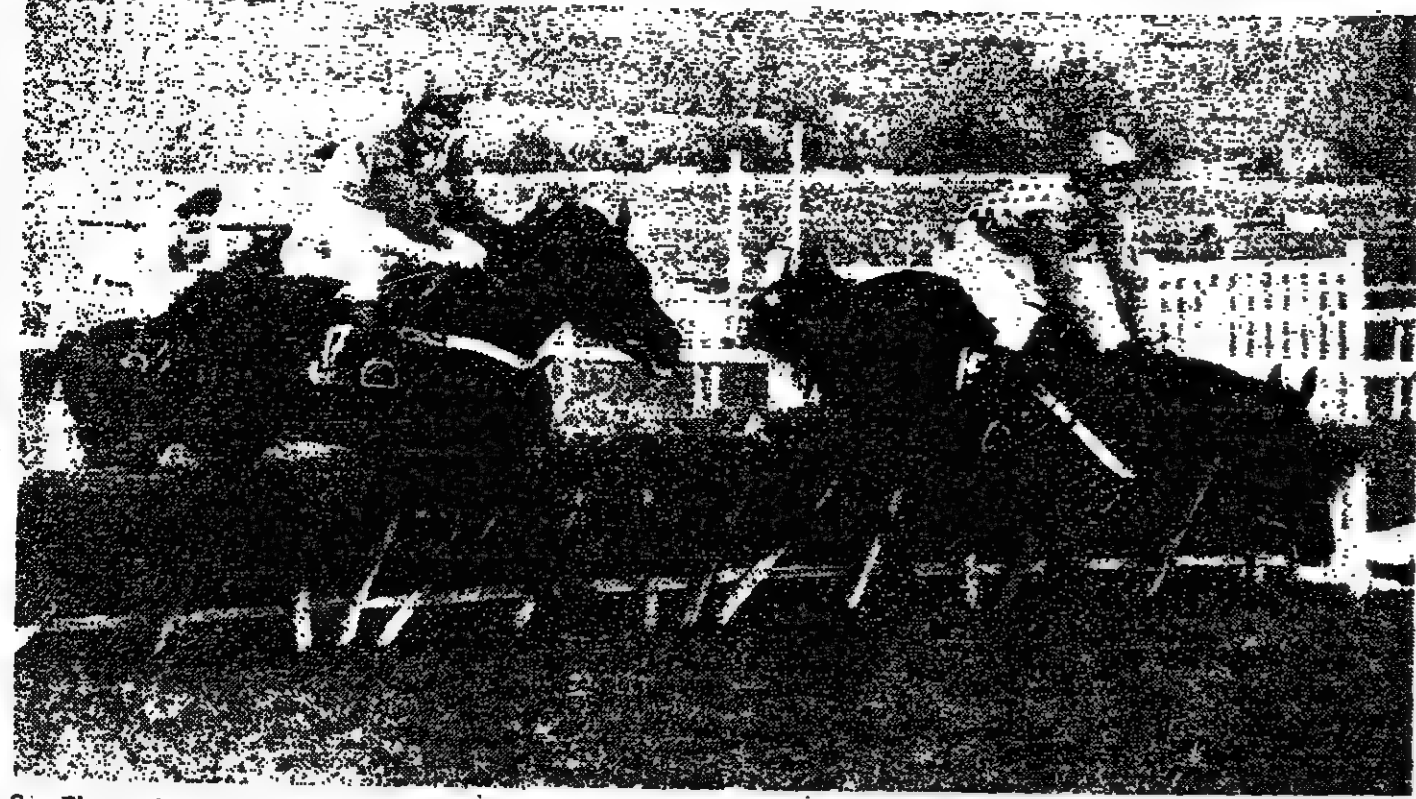
As they landed on the flat the Irish horse, having won a narrow advantage, but Francome was sitting as still as a mouse on Sea Pigeon. Halfway up the run-in and no sooner was the favourite asked for his final effort.

Quickening as only a great horse can, Sea Pigeon produced an unexpected burst of finishing speed to win by one and a half lengths. Polardstown fought back like a nigger to take second place by a neck, but the runner-up, Slaney, did not finish fourth. The disappointing performance of the race was that of Beilghin, who was beaten a long way from home.

Pride was the chief emotion shown by all the principals afterwards. Francome's face as he rode Sea Pigeon back in triumph to the unsaddling enclosure. Peter Eastery, who had hardly been his feelings through the race, was asked to ride him to an extent as he talked to the press.

As he stood as ever, Sea Pigeon's work was not so unbelievable. In his last gallop he left Starline for dead. We're now on target for the Welsh and Scottish Champion Hurdles. Then we'll be back here for the treble next year.

Boastful words, you may think. But Eastery, a shrewd and



Sea Pigeon (right) takes the final flight before winning the Champion Hurdle in a storming finish.

humorous Yorkshireman, has long ago proved that actions speak louder than words. Sea Pigeon has won under National Hunt rules, collecting a total of £130,354.60 in the process. He is the highest prize money winner in the history of jumping, his total earnings of £130,354.60, held by Night Nurse, Red Rum and Comedy of Errors. He also won £25,000 on the flat for Pat Muldoon, his owner.

The sporting nature of the winter game has never been better demonstrated than by the manner in which the connections of Polardstown accepted defeat. The faces of all four joint owners were on fire with excitement.

"That was a real race," Bill Tuohy said. "It was proper form and we weren't disgraced at all. I only wish that they still

had to climb the hill past the stands. Then it would have been a thorough test of stamina." Stan Mellor said that Polardstown would now be a repeat last year's victory in the Templegate Hurdle at Liverpool.

It was a magnificent afternoon's racing in every way. That exuberant Irishman, Mick O'Toole, started panthers off on a high note when Matt Madden persuaded the 11 favourite, Harlequin, to produce a fine turn of foot in the closing stages of the Waterford Crystal Supreme Novices Hurdle. O'Toole has now added a winner at each of the last seven festival meetings.

Eastery started the Yorkshire lad rolling when Clayside allied to win the Arkle Challenge Trophy. A bad blunder at the fourth fence from home had virtually knocked Clayside out of

contention. But he was back on terms at the next jump and had gone clear with the race in the bag as the field turned for home.

The third York victory of the afternoon came when Waggoner, Walk took advantage of the second last fence fall of Indecision to win the Kim Muir Challenge Cup by 34 lengths for Caroline Mason. The rest of the day belonged to Francome and Fred Winter.

That enigmatic character Derrig, who had been described as a soft with heavy patches, had been promoted Silver Buck to 5-1 joint favourite with Jack of Trumps for tomorrow's Tote Gold Cup. Other leading prices are 6-1, Little Owl; 2-1, Night Nurse; and 3-1, Royal Bond.

Winter had his second success of the afternoon and Francome his third when Friendly Alliance came home 15 lengths clear of the field in the Cheltenham Grand Annual Steeplechase. Francome, the man that hardened professionals are now acclaiming as the greatest jockey they have ever seen, is a 4-6 chance with Coral to win his third jockey's title.

With the ground at Cheltenham now officially described as soft with heavy patches, Ladbrokes has promoted Silver Buck to 5-1 joint favourite with Jack of Trumps for tomorrow's Tote Gold Cup. Other leading prices are 6-1, Little Owl; 2-1, Night Nurse; and 3-1, Royal Bond.

Boxing

Minter rewrites his own story against tough Philadelphian

By Srikanth Sen-Boxing Correspondent

Alan Minter, Britain's former world middleweight champion, can breathe a little easier now. Some of the heaviness that was pressing down on his chest after his humiliating defeat at the hands of Marvin Hagler was lifted last night when he returned to Wembley Arena, the scene of his calamitous world title defence last September, and beat Bernie Singletary, a tough Philadelphian, by the fourth round.

The referee measured it 100 points to 92.

From his third round Minter took charge, and he and his followers watched down the street to chants of "Minter, Minter", but everything is still not right in his world, though it is no more like the end of the world it was. With a couple more outings like this, Minter would be able to face it and Hagler with that fierce determination.

Minter looked a bit subdued and cold at the start and as Singletary worked to the body and switched to the head in the first two rounds, Minter was in trouble. He was hit twice as Singletary shifted his punches to the jaw shifted his punches. Minter was hit twice as Singletary shifted his punches to the jaw shifted his punches.

Singletary was a ready-made target for him as he came in with his head forward, looking for punches. He seemed all over to the American by the fourth as Minter crashed through what little defence he could offer but, by his credit, he weathered the assault when the chance of the crowd to flush him off were the loudest.

Minter's punches were severely in the fifth and sixth but then, as the American still refused to go down, Minter decided to give up. He hit him with some combinations, which were not as effective as he would have had a chance to try.

John L. Gardner, Britain's European heavyweight champion, gained the strange victory of his career when he knocked out the Puerto Rican, Oscar, in the sixth round. Gardner had a painful, making merciless punishment from the 8th heavier Puerto Rican and it seemed it would not be long before he would be in his hands. By the fifth round, off was beginning to get the best of the bell when for the sixth he was a long time getting off his stool.

Then the end came in the sixth. It was as much a relief to Gardner as to the man who was unable to see the performance. I do not think Gardner will get himself into the top ten ratings, but if he does, it will be a surprise. He is a world champion. I do not hold out much hope for him beyond cashing in on a large pay-off.

South African guests: Four Argentine boxers arrived in Johannesburg yesterday to prepare for a programme on March 28, that will include a Gwyneth title fight. The Argentine team will be the black South African champion, Peter Mathebula. AP reports.

Rugby League

Carlisle set to follow Fulham's example

By Keith Mackinn

Three officials of the Rugby League will watch a football match at Carlisle on Saturday and the sequel could be the entry of Carlisle United into the second division of the Rugby League.

The Rugby League has been put off by our request for a long-term commitment and some time to give the league an opportunity to examine the situation.

Carlisle City are one club who are showing their interest. Mr. Jones, their general manager, will have discussions with League officials next month.

On tonight at Gravel Park, Hull, England meet Wales to decide who wins the wooden spoon in the European championship, which was won by France at Reading last month.

Both qualify through Welsh ancestry rather than through Welsh nationality, and Herdman's appearance in a Wales party is something of a farce. Less than three months ago he was playing amateur Rugby League with Peckham, and was told by the Fulham player-coach, Roy Bowden, to get a little more experience. He first appeared in the Fulham team only a matter of weeks ago and has since made remarkable strides.

Carlisle have already asked George Graham, the former Wokingham town chairman, to act as a consultant to the club. Harold Genders performed so successfully in the recruitment of the club's side.

Mr. Howes said: "Apart from Carlisle, there is a possible application from Charlton Athletic

to join the league. The club is in a state of flux and would probably have dealt with Maltby. McDonald, however, was well matched to the more mobile and more consistent and a better returner of service.

Given time, Hollington had the head but he had difficulty in judging the ball off the side and back walls, a fact that McDonald, after losing the first half, was able to turn to his benefit. The match began to turn in the middle of the second game.

McDonald was the third game to love in one hand. Hollington's head bowed and shoulders hunched, ambling from side to side as if he had forgotten where he was. He made a sterner effort in the fourth game, putting some weight into his strokes and producing occasional service winners. Hollington led 10-7, but McDonald, whose improvement through the match was noticeable, finished him off in one hand.

Cheltenham results

2.15-2.17 WATERFORD CRYSTAL SUPREME NOVICES HURDLE (11.0.25.2m)
Maidenweight, 11.0.25.2m, 2m. 1. Sea Pigeon (J. Francome), 11.0.25.2m, 2m. 2. Polardstown (J. Francome), 11.0.25.2m, 2m. 3. Slaney (J. Francome), 11.0.25.2m, 2m. 4. Beilghin (J. Francome), 11.0.25.2m, 2m. 5. Ruda (J. Francome), 11.0.25.2m, 2m. 6. Sea Pigeon and Starline (J. Francome), 11.0.25.2m, 2m. 7. Harlequin (J. Francome), 11.0.25.2m, 2m. 8. Night Nurse (J. Francome), 11.0.25.2m, 2m. 9. Royal Bond (J. Francome), 11.0.25.2m, 2m. 10. Friendly Alliance (J. Francome), 11.0.25.2m, 2m. 11. Waggoner (J. Francome), 11.0.25.2m, 2m. 12. Indecision (J. Francome), 11.0.25.2m, 2m. 13. Kim Muir (J. Francome), 11.0.25.2m, 2m. 14. Caroline Mason (J. Francome), 11.0.25.2m, 2m. 15. Fred Winter (J. Francome), 11.0.25.2m, 2m. 16. Derrig (J. Francome), 11.0.25.2m, 2m. 17. Silver Buck (J. Francome), 11.0.25.2m, 2m. 18. Jack of Trumps (J. Francome), 11.0.25.2m, 2m. 19. Little Owl (J. Francome), 11.0.25.2m, 2m. 20. Night Nurse (J. Francome), 11.0.25.2m, 2m. 21. Royal Bond (J. 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THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

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Stock markets
FT Ind 487.6 up 7.8
FT Gilt 69.82 down 0.10

Sterling
\$2.190 up 1.10 cents
Index 99.9 up 0.4

Dollar
Index 99.1 down 0.2
DM 2.0867 down 48 pts

Gold
\$492.30 down \$5

Money
3 month sterling 12 1/2-12 3/4
3 month Euro-S 14 1/2-15 1/4
6 month Euro-S 14 1/2-15 1/4

Pressure on Fed to introduce tighter money targets

From Frank Vogel
Washington, March 17

American interest rates fell further today as it became clear that an increasingly bitter confrontation is developing between some influential Reagan Administration officials who want the Fed to signal a new and still tighter money supply course.

The rate for federal funds, the key short-term rate most directly influenced by the Fed's market operations, fell to 14 1/2 per cent from around 14 1/4 per cent yesterday. Citibank and Morgan Guaranty joined other big banks in dropping its prime rate to 17 1/2 per cent from 18 per cent. The declining rate is providing support to the stock markets.

The Fed's actions in the money markets, resulting in lower rates, appear to be stimulated by a softening of the economy and by the belief that the contraction of the money supply in recent months has been greater than was necessary to secure the Fed's annual money supply growth targets.

Some Fed economists expect the economy to slow further and anticipate that the decline in demand will ensure that money growth remains on the Fed's desired course without having to drain further reserves from the banking system.

The Fed also announced that industrial output declined on a seasonally adjusted basis by 0.5 per cent in February, after a gain of 0.4 per cent in January. This is the first monthly drop in industrial output in seven months. A sharp fall in production of durable goods for the construction and home industries was the main cause of the decline. There was also a slight gain last month in personal income.

Some administration officials are worried by what they see as the "passive" approach of the Fed, under which it is willing to allow broader economic growth and interest rate trends, so that the money supply tends to contract sharply when

economic activity slows and tends to expand sharply on stronger general economic activity.

Such an attitude in the opinion of the officials tends to add to market uncertainties, fails to strengthen confidence in long-term declines in inflation and leads to the destabilising course of interest rates that was seen last year.

In 1980 the prime rate soared in the first quarter to 20 per cent, plunged in the second quarter to 10 1/2 per cent and then rose in the second half of the year to a record 21 per cent. The sources indicated that the Administration has been repeatedly advocating to the Fed that a new statement should be issued announcing lower money supply growth targets and a clear determination to secure a smooth path of money supply expansion.

The proponents of this view seem to have convinced President Reagan that this will strengthen the economy and lead swiftly to lower interest rates.

These officials argue that the new Fed statements and policies would very quickly provide a new sense of confidence in the markets to achieve price stability.

This confidence would tend to stimulate savings and at the same time it would tend to reduce the inflation premium that is now evident in long-term yields.

Elimination of this interest rate premium in interest rates would stimulate investment and so promote greater economic growth.

The enhanced savings stimulated by lower inflation expectations would finance increased private sector investment.

For these reasons the officials believe firmly that tighter money policies today will stimulate the economy in a sound and non-inflationary manner.

Wall Street down: On Wall Street yesterday the Dow Jones industrial average closed 10.26 points down at 952.53. The S&P 500 was 1.23590. The E was 0.548193.

Royal Bank and Standard merge

By Ronald Pullen

Terms for the biggest realignment in British banking for more than a decade were announced yesterday.

Standard Chartered Bank and the Royal Bank of Scotland have reached agreement on their merger, and Lloyds Bank launched a takeover for Lloyds and Scottish, the largest independent finance house in Britain.

Standard Chartered is offering one of its shares plus 50p in cash for every five Royal Bank shares, and a further £760,000 cash for the two classes of preference shares.

With Standard's shares closing 53p lower at 644p, the terms value the Royal Bank at £312m or almost 139p a share, about 50p more than the shares were trading at on Monday before it was announced that the two sides were in talks.

Both Lord Barber, chairman of Standard Chartered, and Sir Michael Herries, Royal Bank's chairman, stressed that this was not a takeover but a merger, and that the Royal Bank would retain its separate identity.

Lord Barber said that his experience in politics had taught him to be sensitive about Scottish opinion, although the first indications from Scotland are that the deal has upset nationalist feelings.

After the merger, the combined group will have balance sheet footings of £19,000m and shareholders' funds approaching £1,000m. This will put the group on a par with Midland and Lloyds in the world league, although still well short of Barclays and National Westminster.

The move will cost Lloyds £145m and put a price tag of around £240m on the whole group.

Lloyds has long been



Lord Barber, right, extends a hand to Sir Michael Herries after the merger had been agreed in London yesterday.

Both sides yesterday emphasized that the two banks were complementary. Lord Barber said that it would have taken in England.

The Bank of England has raised no objections to the link-up and Lord Barber argued that there was no case for the deal to be referred to the Office of Fair Trading.

perfect fit," he added. Neither side however seemed keen to expand on their plans for the expected push into retail banking in England.

Announcing the merger terms, Standard Chartered said that its pre-tax profits last year had risen from £169.8m to £232m and the dividend would rise by a quarter to 32.5p net.

Sir Michael Herries said that the move had not been prompted by fears of a bid from another quarter, despite much speculation in Royal Bank shares over the last year.

Outside the stock market City followers of the electrical business and within the industry felt that an outright bid, either from a British company like GEC or a foreign group, was unlikely, although the possibility of a business like Philips participating in a refinancing package was not ruled out.

Others in the industry believe ICL's difficulties have been caused by its failure to shift its products towards the smaller computers now in demand.

Last year the group suffered a cash outflow of just under £100m. With losses now mounting, the balance sheet is clearly in need of support.

The Government is obviously anxious to ensure that such support is forthcoming while maintaining its political position of non-intervention.

Financial Editor, page 19

Support scheme for ICL hits snags

By Andrew Goodrick-Clarke
Financial Editor

A last-minute hitch has developed in drawing up a plan for the future of ICL, Britain's remaining independent manufacturer of large computer systems.

One theory is that a scheme supported by the Department of Industry and involving some form of direct government aid, has run into opposition at Cabinet level.

The stock market appears to be backing a theory that ICL's negotiations for a largely private sector solution to its liquidity problems have been upset at the eleventh hour by the appearance of a potential bidder.

ICL's share price, which collapsed after the group disclosed first-quarter losses of more than £20m in February, has been actively supported this week.

The price improved by a further 3p to 45p yesterday on speculation that a bidder was about to emerge.

The names of three possible contenders were mentioned—Philips, the Dutch electrical giant; Siemens, the West German electronics group, and Nixdorf, a West German office computer business. Herr Heinz Nixdorf, the chairman, held a stake in ICL at one time.

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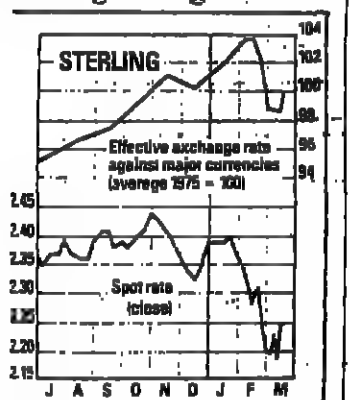
Kuwaitis raise stake in Savoy

The Kuwait Investment Office announced yesterday that it spent £210,000 adding 127,500 shares to its 34.1 per cent "A" class stake in the Savoy the day after Sir Charles' Trusthouse Forte empire hopes to win control of the Savoy group at a meeting of "A" class shareholders which together control 51 per cent of the total votes. The Kuwaitis have already said they will accept his offer. Trusthouse is unlikely to add to its 88,000 "A" shares because under the rules of the "B" class stake is effectively disenfranchised.

He has already asked Sir Hugh Wommerley, Savoy chairman to call special meetings of the "A" and "B" class shareholders in order to put his offer to the vote. But Sir Hugh, who has dismissed the takeover as wholly unwelcome and totally unacceptable will only refuse to call the meetings.

THF is offering 84 of its own shares or £165 cash for every 100 Savoy A shares, and five of its shares or £9.75 for each B share.

sterling stronger



Sterling was the main beneficiary of a weaker dollar, touching \$2.26 before falling back to close more than a cent higher at \$2.2490. It also strengthened against continental currencies.

Uranium settlement
Westinghouse and the Tennessee Valley Authority have reached what looks likely to be a final settlement in their litigation with uranium suppliers, including six members of the Tinto-Zinc group. The deal will see Westinghouse line million pounds of uranium between 1981 and 1985 and will pay the company \$39m in cash. The valley authority will receive \$2m.

Gas pricing call
Britain has urged the EEC Commission to keep up the pressure on the United States government to bring to an end the dual pricing of gas which has given American chemical and textile industries a competitive advantage in EEC markets.

Shipbuilding slump
Output from Britain's shipyards last year sank to 427,000 tons, its lowest level for almost 10 years, according to Lloyd's register of Shipping.

DR rates
The dollar rate against the pound drawing right was 23590 while the £ was 548193.

Auditor pays £400,000 to Pentos

By Catherine Gunn

An ex gratia payment of £400,000 is being made to Pentos, the publishing and engineering group, by its auditor, Neville Russell, the chartered accountancy firm. The payment is in respect of a review of Caplan Profile carried out by Neville Russell for Pentos before it bought Caplan for £7m of shares in August, 1979.

Discrepancies in the Caplan accounts and profit forecast to end-August, 1979, were discovered by Pentos after the purchase. Pentos is suing Malvern & Co. Caplan's former auditor, and Singer & Friedlander, the merchant bank, concerning the asset valuation and profit forecast made prior to the acquisition of Caplan.

The case is due before the High Court in the second quarter of 1982. Pentos values its share at £5.5m. Last year the Caplan group made a profit of £350,000 over two years.

A spokesman for the Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales yesterday described the £400,000 payment by Neville Russell as "certainly one of the biggest ex gratia payments" ever made by an accountancy firm.

"On the purely practical level it's far easier to settle for some amount than to go through the uncertainties and costs of litigation," he said. Caplan made less than £1m for the year to end-August 1979, against the £1.4m profit forecast, and the £1.4m below Pentos' expectations.

Neville Russell has disclaimed all liability over the Caplan episode. It is to continue as Pentos' auditor. A spokesman for the accountancy firm yesterday would make no comment on the ex gratia payment.

Sir Ronald McIntosh rejects Fisons post

By Rosemary Unsworth

Sir Ronald McIntosh who was due to succeed Sir George Burton as chairman of Fisons, the troubled chemicals and pharmaceutical group, has decided not to take up the appointment.

But Sir Ronald will remain as a director. Sir George will continue as chairman in a non-executive capacity, while Mr John Kerridge, chief executive, will take over the chairman's executive responsibilities.

The move follows Fisons' decision, announced last week, to shift its headquarters from London to Ipswich as part of a cost-cutting exercise.

Sir Ronald, who is 61, said yesterday that he would have been unable to devote enough time to Fisons while living in London. "I would have been too remote from the chief executive and it would have detracted from my other work," he was to have contemplated anything while to go to Fisons.

Sir Ronald is also on the boards of S. G. Warburg, Rosco Minsep, APV Holdings and London and Manchester Assurance.

John Kerridge has been chief executive for nine months and performed very well," Sir Ronald said. Mr Kerridge, who is 46, has been with Fisons for 20 years and was in charge of fertilizer division.

Two large works at Immingham, Humberside, and Avonmouth near Bristol are being consolidated and some other sites are being closed, with the eventual loss of more than 1,000 jobs.

The decision to close the Mayfair offices in London involving 70 redundancies was made after the group revealed a net loss last year of £16.5m compared with a profit in 1979 of £12m. The dividend was cut by two-thirds.

Poor results were blamed on the recession in the United Kingdom, Europe and North America and on high interest rates. The strength of sterling was also reckoned to have cut £20m from exports.

Fisons suffered an additional blow in January when it was forced to abandon Proxicromil, a new anti-asthma drug, after development costs of about £12m.

IMI to raise £27.5m by rights issue

By Peter Wilson-Smith

IMI, the metals company, is raising £27.5m after expenses through a rights issue. The news accompanied better than expected profits for 1980, showing a fall of only 18 per cent to £28.2m. The shares closed 11p up yesterday at 61p.

Sir Michael Clapham, the chairman, who retires next month, said that since the last rights issue in 1976 the group had invested £105m in expanding at home and overseas.

Capital spending—£25m in 1980—was still running at a level well below investment in titanium, copper, tube and aluminium operations. IMI wanted to be able to continue expanding.

The dividend, increased from 6.25p gross to 6.50p in 1980, will be maintained on the enlarged capital "unless the present depression deepens even further or unforeseen circumstances arise."

The terms of the rights issue, underwritten by Hill Samuel, are two new shares at 48p for every seven ordinary shares held. Cazenove and Company, is the broker.

Group turnover in 1980 rose from £612m to £629m, including a 19 per cent rise in exports to £135m.

Financial Editor, page 19

Crash course in post-Armageddon for industrialists

By Peter Wilson-Smith

Survival will be at the regular monthly meeting of the organization's council, and the CBI has demurred from sending any of its officials to the holocaust seminar.

One of Sir Terence's aides said last night: "In the event of a nuclear attack, we expect emergency committees to be coordinating the efforts of whatever industries survived."

And many others may observe somewhat cynically that trying to run a business in Britain in the present economic climate (particularly after last week's Budget) is a close enough parallel to a holocaust, and that there is no need to spend a day in London assimilating the finer points of the worst radiation hazard, or how much damage the electromagnetic pulse given off by nuclear explosions will do to the communications system, computers and power stations.

Peter Hill

PRICE CHANGES

Rises	Falls
Lib-Latham 13p to 367p	Broken Hill 25p to 730p
Warrit Ders 24p to 225p	Castfield 10p to 480p
WTR 32p to 42p	Cons Gold Flds 7p to 443p
Electrocomp 2.71	Crmdays Hold 12.20
Amco 17p to 609p	Sammerley 5p to 100p
Falls	
Broken Hill 25p to 730p	
Castfield 10p to 480p	
Cons Gold Flds 7p to 443p	
Crmdays Hold 12.20	
Sammerley 5p to 100p	

THE POUND

Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank
buys	sells	buys	sells
Australia \$ 1.98	1.90	Netherlands Gld 12.55	11.90
Austria Sch 34.95	32.75	Norway Esc 128.00	122.00
Belgium Fr 81.75	77.75	Portugal Esc 128.00	122.00
Canada \$ 2.71	2.62	South African Rd 1.99	1.85
Denmark Kr 15.36	14.56	Spain Ptas 165.00	166.00
Finland Mk 9.55	9.65	Sweden Kr 10.73	10.18
France Fr 11.40	10.90	Switzerland Fr 4.43	4.28
Germany DM 4.86	4.62	USA \$ 2.30	2.23
Greece Dr 110.00	110.00	Yugoslavia Dor 79.50	74.00
Hong Kong \$ 116.00	116.00		
India Rupee 13.20	12.20		
Italy Lira 2380.00	2270.00		
Japan Yen 490.00	465.00		

"Bonus rates again increased!"

EXTRACTS FROM THE STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN, MR. A.M. HODGE To be presented at the Annual General Meeting on March 24th 1981.

New U.K. Premiums up 53%. Investment Linked Bonds Success. 12% Growth in Pensions. Increased Canadian Business.

UNITED KINGDOM AND REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Assurance Business

Economic recession and continuing high inflation made last year a difficult one. At times such as these it is necessary to work harder to achieve the same results as in more favourable conditions. It is therefore with some satisfaction that I am able to report that the total premiums (single and annual) on new business in the U.K. last year, at £41.7m, were 53% higher than in the year before. In the Republic of Ireland our new annual premiums increased by 9% to IR £12m. Two years ago we introduced a highly successful Guaranteed Bond scheme when we have received single premiums of IR £20m, IR £13.2m in the first year and IR £16.2m last year.

For long our major class of business was with profit endowment assurance policies taken out either for investment or for house purchase. There has in the last few years been a trend away from this for various reasons. Last year in particular, activity in the house purchase market was much lower than normal. At the same time there has been an increasing tendency on the part of the public to buy policies linked to unit trusts. To satisfy this need we issued a Capital Investment Bond contract in October 1979. This was highly successful and was followed last year by the Regular Investment Bond and a Personal Pension Bond. The performance of the invested funds underlying these Bonds has been remarkable. As an example, between its inception in October 1979 and 15th November 1980 our U.K. equity fund's unit price grew 55% compared with a stock market movement of only 26%.

Our aim is still, as it always has been, to produce those forms of life insurance which the public needs.

Pensions Business

It is nearly two years since the Social Security Pensions Act 1975 came into force, and the activity which that produced has died down. So many employees have recently reviewed the pension provisions for their staffs that arise only from that small number of firms deciding to provide pensions for the first time. Our Stanplan series of policies is particularly appropriate in these cases because they are based on a ready made trust deed and rules with Standard Life Pension Funds Ltd. as trustees.

A better indication of the growth of our business is given by the total premium income

received each year for all our insured schemes. Last year the total of annual and single payments was 12% higher at £121m, compared with £108m the year before.

Investment
Last year we invested £130m in fixed interest securities, £67m in ordinary shares, and £40m in property. The proportions of the total fund in these groups of investments at market value were about 40%, 35% and 25% as at 15th November 1980.

We have continued to provide finance for the building of office blocks, shops and the development of industrial estates.

CANADA New Business

There has been a good increase in our new ordinary assurance business in Canada with new annual premiums up by 38%. Our success is due both to the introduction of new products and to an expansion in our sales force which grew from 165 in November 1979 to 185 in November 1980. I am sure, too, that the large increase of 66% in new annual and single premiums on group pension business can be attributed to the quality of our service, to the competitive rates which we offer and to our excellent investment record.

VALUATION AND BONUS

The valuation basis, as set out in the Actuarial Report, is unchanged from last year and remains exceptionally strong. The surplus earnings of the company have benefited from a further increase in the yield on investments while during the year the market values of our investments, and in particular ordinary shares, have improved substantially.

Our bonus declaration reflects these favourable investment conditions. We have felt able to increase our rates of reversionary and terminal bonus in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland and have also declared, for the first time, a terminal bonus in respect of U.K. individual pension policies. In Canada we have made significant increases in rates of reversionary bonus and have also increased the rate of bonus paid under with-profits group pension schemes. Bonuses, under the latter contracts are paid in cash and declared on a biennial basis.

The declared rates of bonus are high by any standard and reflect the exceptional returns in monetary terms that accrue during inflationary conditions. It is therefore necessary to stress that current rates of bonus could not necessarily be maintained should investment yields subside in future to more normal levels.

Standard Life

The largest mutual life assurance company in the European Community.

Head Office: 3 George Street, Edinburgh.

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Putting together a new banking giant

Standard Chartered and Royal Bank of Scotland have had to steer a difficult course between asset values and earnings in determining the terms of their merger. In the event it looks as though the short term benefit lies with Standard whose 1-for-5 offer plus 50p cash values Royal at 139p after the 53p slump to 64p in Standard's share price as the market adjusted to the extra 45m Standard shares that would need to be digested.

This is around 90p below last December's asset value but against that Standard can show a much healthier earnings outlook with latest year pretax profits on a sharply rising trend up from £170m to £232m while Royal's £100m pretax in 1980 represents a cyclical peak. And there are some worries that Royal's downward trend could hamper Standard's prospects over the next few years.

But Standard will have access to Royal's strong capital base which will improve its own weak ratios considerably. Free equity rises to almost 3 and the free capital ratio goes to 4.4—and may be seen by some as a disguised rights issue and at the same time is getting a useful United Kingdom tax base to solve its looming problems on this front and appears to be avoiding any earnings dilution along the way.

For Royal the benefits appear to be much longer term, exposure to overseas banking and the build up of its United Kingdom retail network. But both sides were stressing the sound strategic sense of the deal yesterday and denied suggestions that there was anything defensive.

Lloyds Bank itself wasted no time yesterday in putting in an offer for Lloyds & Scottish after Standard's agreement in principle to dispose of Royal's 39.3 per cent holding. The logic of that move has always looked compelling and while its 200p a share offer fully values L & S representing something like twice asset value, there are hidden benefits to Lloyds in the deal. For one thing full consolidation of L & S will provide a useful contra cyclical source of earnings to domestic banking. More important is likely to be the tax shelter Lloyds will enjoy from L & S's leasing side and the entree to the consumer hire purchase sector where Lloyds has traditionally been weak.

A third party bidder for Royal now seems more remote than a monopolies reference though if the new grouping does emerge a planned at the moment it can claim that competition will be increased. For investors the realignment in United Kingdom banking reduces the scope for investment in the sector and there is still a suspicion that regional bank managements are pushing for concentration for concentration's sake.

Barratt

Still bucking the trend

Barratt Developments, Britain's biggest housebuilder, claims to be unique. The stock market interprets that as being unorthodox. But figures eventually speak louder than reconstructions. The shares jumped 24p to 26p, a new peak yesterday (at one time last year they were 80p) when Barratt published interim pre-tax profits to December by some 3 per cent to £11.8m while turnover rose by 24 per cent to £128.5m. A year to last June profits rose by 6 per cent to £24.7m.

Suggestions that its profits simply reflected a policy of buying land cheap and selling it dear are rejected by the company. Barratt maintains that the cost of carrying land negated any such profit. Barratt says it decentralises selling more than any other competitor; and that up to a quarter of its homes are built more quickly. Moreover, a policy of subcontracting means that small builders, hungry for work can take the strain when business is tough.

Barratt is no longer subsidising mortgages, and expects the housebuilding industry to pick up quickly this year. It should complete 12,000 or more homes against 1,000 last year. It will then have around 11 per cent of the market. As the year progresses, housebuilding costs and prices will once again move in opposite directions. In the latest half year the two United Statesquisitions did little to contribute—they are being switched to the Barratt style of selling—but they are scheduled to do so or more in coming years.

Debt is still only 60 per cent of funds employed and if, as some say, Barratt reports profits of £27m this year to June, there will probably be no cash-call until

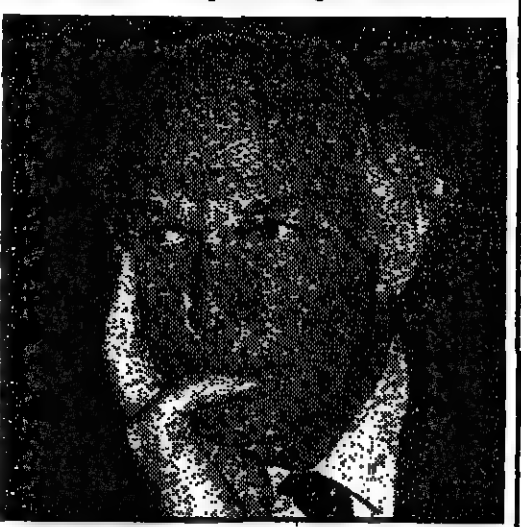
autumn when housebuilding could be starting to explode into expansion. Barratt is still under-represented in the South of England where margins are fatter. The shares still yield a well covered 7.7 per cent, and seem likely to come in for further support.

IMI

Plumps for a rights issue

IMI's results were not only better than most engineering companies have been able to manage during 1980, but also better than the market was expecting. Although volumes were down by over 5 per cent, profits have only fallen from £34.5m to £28.2m pretax, and even this was after charging £5m of redundancy costs.

So IMI is taking full advantage of these figures by tapping the market for £27.5m at a time when the balance sheet is looking strong. Before the issue IMI had net borrowings of only £53m against £200m net



Sir Robert Clark, who will become chairman of IMI next month.

tangible worth. Inevitably the rights issue has given rise to speculation that a major acquisition is on the way.

The other point for shareholders is that in real terms IMI is not generating enough profit to maintain the business and also pay dividends at the current rate. The dividend was uncovered under CCA in 1979 and may be again in 1980, when it will cost £12m net and very likely more assuming there is still unrelieved ACT to pay.

Profits in 1981 may even be held around last year's levels with help from the interest on the rights money and the promise of a maintained dividend on the enlarged capital assuming nothing drastic happens is likely to carry more weight in the short-term than worries about CCA.

Brooke Bond

Ahead in Britain

Brooke Bond Liebig's first half pretax profits, down almost £5m to £19.3m, are not strictly comparable with the 1979 figures since those results were distorted by the deferral of television advertising expenditure and the abnormal sales of Imperial tea packs in the run up to metrication.

The United Kingdom contributed 52 per cent of the £22.8m operating profits, a sharp rise from the 40 per cent of only about a year ago. This is a deliberate policy, largely encouraged by the high rate of tax on foreign earnings in their country of origin.

Despite trade de-stocking and the High Street price war, retail tea margins remained good, while Brooke Bond's share of the market was maintained. Baxter, the butcher, made higher profits in the first half, helped by heavy Christmas spending. But the other side of the domestic meat business, the slaughtering, suffered from the high price of livestock and foreign competition. The profit contribution fell from about £500,000 to break even.

Overseas earnings down about £500,000 to £10.8m and the unusual factors in the comparable period of the previous year cut trading profits by £3.3m. It was interest charges soaring from £1.92m to £3.47m which hit pretax profits.

This increase was mainly attributable to the cost of the 29 per cent stake in Maffinson-Denny. That company's profits will be included in the final figures, but so will the interest charge for taking control of the timber importers.

Later this year the Government may pick international partners to collaborate on the building of a prototype fast breeder reactor of commercial size in the United Kingdom.

The United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority hopes that it will. It has told the Government that it thinks that a fast reactor needs to be built and it is naturally keen to move on from the experience gained on the two small-scale plants it has operated at Dounreay in Scotland to the logical next stage of development.

A choice of international partners, which would help to defray the cost of the new reactor (likely to be at least half as much again as that of a conventional nuclear station) would set in motion the process leading up to the ordering of a demonstration commercial project within the next few years.

Opposition is likely to be strong, however. The great advantage of the fast reactor is that its use of uranium is some 60 times more efficient than that of the conventional thermal reactors which form the Government's intended nuclear programme at present, but it is technologically more advanced and relies on plutonium, an element used in the production of nuclear weapons.

Before a decision is taken to build a fast reactor, the Government has promised a public inquiry, which is likely to be followed by a bitter battle as the application to build a fast reactor at Windscale four years ago. Much of the argument may depend on whether fast reactors are economically necessary.

If uranium becomes more difficult (or vastly more expensive) to obtain, faster reactors will come into their own. Too early a start on a fast reactor programme could be a waste of money and public servants' time; too late a start could leave Britain dependent on imports of another highly expensive fuel.

At first glance Britain's supplies of uranium look precarious. The 124 per cent of Britain's electricity generated by nuclear power involves the use of 1,500 metric tonnes a year of uranium ore. All the United Kingdom's requirements are met by imports from only two suppliers, a contract for about 10,000 metric tons (a short ton is a little less than a metric ton) from Rio Algom in Canada ending in 1982 (to be replaced by a contract for a broadly similar amount over 10 years to 1992) and a contract of an undisclosed amount from the Rossing mine in Namibia.

Dependency on only two sources, particularly when one—Rossing—is in a potential unstable country whose future is in doubt, might appear to be a cause for concern. In fact there is enough uranium in Britain for there to be no immediate worry if either contract were to be cancelled. Both were agreed when Britain's nuclear power programme was expected to grow far faster than it has.

The delay in commissioning the advanced gas cooled reactor, largely ordered during the sixties, has meant that stocks have risen. But while stocks might give an adequate breathing space in an emergency they are not an open-ended source of supply. Imports and usage are now approaching balance and there will soon be another three nuclear stations on stream.

The Civil Uranium Procurement Directorate, which was set up in 1975 to coordinate the buying policies of British Nuclear Fuels, the South of Scotland Electricity Board and the Central Electricity Generating Board, is aware of the problem.

The uranium market is highly political. Only six countries are producing the material—Australia, South Africa (including Namibia), Canada, the United States, Gabon and Niger. In 1977 Canada placed a moratorium on exports to Europe because it believed that it was unable to gain sufficiently satisfactory assurances on safeguards against weapons proliferation. Australia, under Mr Gough Whitlam, delayed mine development and exports of uranium; and the United States, under President Carter, placed stringent restrictions on the use of uranium enriched in its plants and exported for use in overseas reactors.

Britain was able, because of its stockpile, to help out a German utility which had run short of supplies, but with a programme now which involves building roughly one new nuclear power station a year for 10 years, the procurement directorate is keen to diversify its sources.

It appears to have plenty of time to do so. During 1980 worldwide cancellations of nuclear orders were higher than the number of new orders placed and the spot price of uranium fell sharply. Indeed,

American utilities have sold out material from their own stocks, undercutting producers, and sometimes producers have bought from the utilities to sell to other users.

But the present lack of demand for uranium could create problems for the future if it means that new mines are not put into production. A further problem is that supplies are often tied into firm contracts for the enrichment processes necessary to make the uranium usable in reactors and these contracts have run ahead of utilities' needs, creating additional stockpiles of prepared material.

Steady stockpiling policies by power station authorities could keep demand rising smoothly, however, Mr Philippe Drayman, of Uranium Technology, Uglite, Kuhlmann, suggested, to the fifth annual symposium of the Uranium Institute last September that maintaining world stockpiles of between two and three years would secure sufficient requirements over the next few years would secure sufficient new mining capacity for future needs.

Certainly, the United Kingdom authorities have been fairly relaxed in their procurement policies. Negotiations were undertaken for supplies from the new Ranger mine in Australia, but it was decided that the terms were not sufficiently advantageous. The Rossing contract runs out without an automatic renewal in 1984 and for political as well as strategic reasons an attempt is bound to be made to spread supply risks elsewhere. Ideally, by the 1990s the procurement directorate

would like supplies from about five countries under a dozen or so medium-size contracts.

It would also like about a quarter of its supplies to come from operations in which it has an interest. Since 1974 the Central Electricity Generating Board has taken partnerships in a number of uranium mines in the United States, Canada, Australia and in several African states, although none of them have yet produced uranium finds in commercial quantities.

Uncertainties over the future will always remain. Uranium mines have an average life of 10 to 15 years, whereas a nuclear power station should last for at least 30 years. Additional supplies in the United Kingdom are, however, available from the search for fast reactors. Its need for them depends on how the international market in uranium is likely to develop and whether alternative technologies, such as wind, wave and tidal power, can provide energy supplementary to that provided by conventional fossil-fuelled and nuclear plants at competitive cost.

But a country without its own uranium supplies must become increasingly vulnerable to supply interruptions. "Renaissance is continuing," he says.

"We are building for the future with the emphasis on diversification of our economy, and an increased attention to our own resources. Renaissance is above all, a matter of the spirit and culturally Detroit is alive and well."

But in spite of the announced plans to diversify the local economy a scheme to create a free trade zone in the port and other attempts to lure business other than the car industry to the area there is an understanding that this is still the "motor city."

Indeed, General Motors plans to close its Cadillac plant but replace it with a newer facility, if it can get the necessary tax incentives and survive a legal challenge from the residents who would be displaced by the new plant. If it fails, the city will lose another 6,000 jobs.

And the shrinkage goes on. Chrysler closed one plant in the area last year and is to shut another one this year, eliminating another 2,600 jobs. Both General Motors and Ford have plans to trim their salaries by as much as 15 per cent, which will eliminate thousands of further jobs in the Detroit area.

There may be differences about whether this cutback in the car industry is cyclical or permanent, but there is general agreement that Detroit is not out of the economic woods yet and that even the expected upturn in car sales later in the year will not make the unemployment queues disappear immediately.

But hope does not die easily. There is also the feeling that there is indeed a road back to economic recovery for Detroit, even if it is in despair.

Edward Lapham

Hard times in America's 'motor city'

The citizens of Detroit are feeling the effects of cutbacks in the car industry



Waiting "in line" at the Detroit unemployment office: the proportion of workers without jobs has been as high as 20 per cent.

expired, leaving only general assistance.

The local business activity index, which is a good indicator of real income, fell by 19 per cent last year, says Mr David Littman, an economist who is vice-president of Manufacturers National Bank.

"It was the sharpest decline since the 1958 recession. The lowest cyclical point was last June," he says. "We are definitely off the bottom of the cycle."

Mr Littman believes that the long-term position will improve, but there will be no dramatic improvement in the short term. The decline last spring corresponded to the period of heaviest layoffs, although real disposable income fell only slightly, because of unemployment insurance, supplemental unemployment benefits, trade readjustment assistance and other transfer payments.

The changing life-style of the city manifests itself in various ways. Local merchants have reported a drop in consumer buying in "blue collar" areas and many restaurants say there has been a noticeable fall-off in the lunch and dinner trade because of sharply reduced expense accounts and restricted family budgets.

But if eating out has become a luxury many can no longer

afford, the consumption of alcohol has not been affected—indeed, quite the contrary. Many taverns report an increase in their business but surprisingly perhaps, in view of the widespread despondency and the higher than usual intake of alcohol, the police have not found any corresponding increase in the crime rate.

The entire city is acutely aware of these problems because local newspapers, television and radio stations have given blanket coverage to the bad economic news, complete with pictures of long queues of unemployed and empty shopping centre car parks.

There are real fears that Reagan administration budget cuts in social assistance programmes could have an immediate and severe impact on Detroit. Officials in Detroit and other area communities are particularly worried that plans to cut food stamp benefits, funded in part by Federal aid, could have an immediate effect on the unemployed.

Another "vital" programme which will be trimmed is the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act, which communities have used to retain laid off workers, train and hire the hard-core unemployed and provide part-time employment for urban youth.

Detroit has asked the state legislature to allow it to raise local income tax rates to help the city meet its budget deficits. Mr Littman said that raising the tax rates now "would be economically the worst thing the city could do."

In fact the city of Detroit and the Michigan State Government are both faced with massive budget cuts, tax increases or both, to compensate for lower income and sales tax revenues.

Mayor Coleman Young, who has personally intervened on behalf of the city and the car industry in Washington, is credited with having generated a "renaissance" in Detroit and his administration is now trying to maintain that image in the face of the local economic problems.

"In spite of the unpre-

Business Diary: Unnatural breaks? • Tripe à la mode

here was little cheer for the commercial television industry yesterday from a brace of nights close to its heart—Huw Idris Jones, the former managing director of BBC TV and Richard Marsh, one-time Labour cabinet minister and now deputy chairman of TV-M, the successful breakfast television consortium.

Both beamed happily at the launch of a new company designed to take advertising revenue away from the existing commercial stations and, what more, to do so in a way which the conventional television companies are banned from imitating.

Sir Huw, Sir Richard and Mr BBC linkman Michael Barratt are the three big names to have a personal stake in commercial video which is designed to cash in on the home video boom.

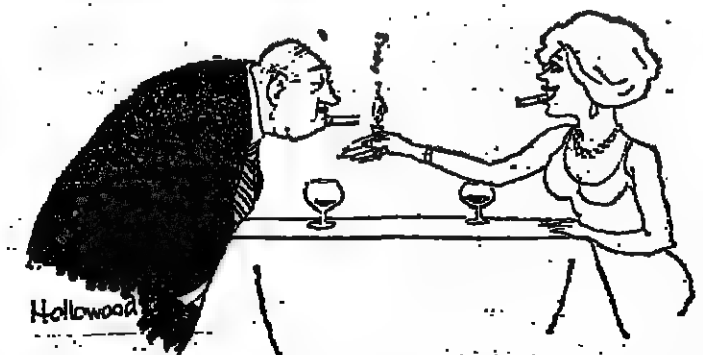
TV offers manufacturers the chance to pay for the production of a one-hour pre-recorded programme, usually at about £20,000 time, which will then be sold to the public for about £13 a me.

which is likely to infuriate the television companies. Home video is in something of a privileged position at present, commanding no formal code of advertising practice. Independent television does add its strictly forbidden from using an editorial format for commercial promotion.

So, popular as Commercial video's programmes may be, they could never be broadcast in Britain. Eric Star, the key who is the company's marketing expert, says that it will keep to the spirit of the Code of Advertising Practice, though, as the code is not meant to apply to home video, it is difficult to see just what this means.

But all is likely to become clear within a few months. New powers for self-regulatory control of home video advertising, such as the Post Office's Press, which are also outside the present legislation, are reported to be on the way, probably from the Home Office.

"BP Polystyrene improves Austrian beer" is the unlikely headline over an announcement from the oil company. It turns out that the poor Austrians do not swallow the stuff. Polystyrene is floated on top of beer vats to remove sediment.



"I don't feel so awful accepting your posh cigarettes costing about 5p each when I can offer you the use of my lighter newly taxed at 35p."

● Francophobes really must subscribe to the monthly review of France's leading private bank, the Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas.

The latest issue treats us to a lecture on Britain's downfall. The slide started, the bank says, when Winston Churchill, as Chancellor of the Exchequer, in 1925, fixed the exchange rate of sterling at the prewar level, thus provoking an economic crisis and setting the country on the road to ruin.

As Prime Minister during the next war, he promised blood, toil, tears and sweat, which eventually had to be

paid for with overpriced social reforms.

Our "splendid isolation" left us the empire, replacing it with nothing; our trade unions are Malthusian and our businessmen are financiers rather than industrialists.

The distinctly unfattering survey concludes that Mrs Thatcher's real aim is to change in depth the social and political behaviour of the British, but that she has failed. This is seen as proof that it is impossible to change mentality and behaviour by decree, not to mention preconceptions about those funny people across the Channel.

● Walter Goldsmith, the director general of the Institute of Directors, who is never slow to offer advice, now has some for Lord Soames, the former Governor of Rhodesia.

Soames returns to Salisbury next week to lead the British delegation at a conference of international organizations and governments discussing the country's reconstruction and development.

Goldsmith, just back from his second visit since the lifting of sanctions, says that the British Government should concentrate its aid on specific projects and act in partnership with industry.

The railways were in particular need, having been starved of investment, he said.

Goven the Government's reluctance to cough up the investment Sir Peter Parker has demanded for our own railways, it would surely be ironic if Soames followed that bit of advice.

As far as purely private business investment is concerned, let no one in England think that they have any advantage Goldsmith says. "They will have to operate against international competition."

He thinks that the battle has been already lost as far as restructuring the telecommunications network is concerned, but

that there is still plenty of opportunity in other areas.

● Sure enough, somebody at British Aerospace, Weybridge, has identified the mysterious model of an aircraft, which was found in a locked cupboard bought three years ago from its predecessor, the British Aircraft Corporation, and mentioned here on Monday.

It is, it seems, a Vickers Supermarine 569, a missile designed in 1957 to replace the cancelled Blue Steel stand-off bomb and it was to have been carried in the bomb bay of the Victor bomber.

So we were wrong in suggesting that with its wingtip engines it was a design for a vertical take-off aircraft, but we were right in saying that, like so many other British aircraft projects since the war, it was cancelled.

What on earth is happening to the National Health Service? Struggling through a hailstorm in Holborn yesterday, I was somewhat bemused to meet a group in face masks and green surgeons' gowns pushing what appeared to be a patient on a trolley. "Fancy contributing to research at St Bar's, sir?" asked the leading medico, waving a collecting box.

David Hewson

Barratt Developments Limited

INTERIM STATEMENT RECORD SALES AND PROFIT

During the half year to 31st December, 1980 the Barratt Group continued its controlled expansion which enables it to report, yet again, record interim turnover and profit. The following are the unaudited results of the Group:

	Half Year ended 31st Dec. 1979	Half Year ended 31st Dec. 1980
Turnover	£700	£700
Net Profit	128,558	103,368
Taxation	11,887	11,529
		2,300
Profit after Taxation	11,887	9,259
Interim Dividend	1,656	1,323
	10,231	7,936

A record number of houses were built and sold, through a national increase in market share, particularly in Southern England.

Studio Solo, which was successfully launched at the Ideal Home Exhibition last week exemplifies once again, the Company's innovative approach to product design and marketing, which has made it the market leader in the industry.

The planned expansion of the Group's property investment portfolio has continued, and it is on target to achieve a net profit of £4 million by June, 1982. The current programme of industrial and commercial developments includes an increasing number in London and the South East.

Contracting activities are showing a marked improvement with forward order book. Sound progress is being achieved in both property conversion and leisure property.

The initial U.S.A. acquisition in Southern California is now complete. The second U.S.A. acquisition in Northern California, McKean Construction Inc., was announced on 17th November, 1980, for a maximum consideration of \$2.5 million, due for completion shortly, on fulfilment of certain conditions, including the consent of McKean Stockholders. In the nine months ended 30th November, 1980, McKean's unaudited net earnings after tax were \$2.2 million.

As stated at the time of the capitalisation issue the Group is declaring an Interim Dividend of 3.5p per share, representing a 25% increase over the comparable dividend last year, payable on 16th April, 1981. It is anticipated that the final dividend will show a comparable increase.

The Group's current trading remains strong. Unused bank facilities of almost £50 million, coupled with an excellent land bank, will enable it to take advantage of the markedly improving trading climate.

L. A. BARRATT, Chairman

FINANCIAL NEWS

Stock markets

Bank takeover news sets firm trading tone

Selective buying of second liners by most of the leading institutions saw equities maintain their recent rally yesterday.

Strong overnight support for Wall Street, which enabled it to stay above the 1,000 mark, saw trading begin on a firm note with electricals again popular.

Sentiment was also helped by the latest round of takeover news among banks with Royal Bank of Scotland returning from suspension after their merger proposals. Standard opened 4 1/2p lower at 650p, before diving to 620p and then recovering to close at 644p, a net fall of the day of 5p. Royal Bank of Scotland was in better form and rallied 40p to 136p.

The bid from Lloyds Bank, up 31p at 315p, for Lloyds & Scottish, 40 per cent owned by Royal Bank of Scotland, provided fresh stimulus as the shares rebounded 15p to 158p.

Elsewhere, the general shortage of stock and subsequent recovery to close at 644p, a net fall of the day of 5p. Royal Bank of Scotland was in better form and rallied 40p to 136p.

In the event, the FT Index, which was 2.9 higher at 10 am, eventually closed up 7.8 at 487.6.

Government securities encountered profit taking after their recent strong performance. But the Government Broker was still able to activate the new tap Exchequer 12 1/2 per cent 1990 at 115 5/16 but it was later withdrawn.

In long, prices opened steady but drifted throughout the day with most prices closing 1/2 below their best levels, while in shorts earlier rises of 1/16 soon gave way to see the list close basically unchanged on the day.

Leading industrials made moderate progress in the afternoon with Bescor up 1p at 160p, Glaxo 4p at 487.6.

278p, Unilever 7p at 490p and Fisons 10p at 143p, after most eyes were firmly focused on GKN, up 3p at 131p, ahead of figures later today.

In the meantime, Metal Box hardened 4p to 170p, Hawker Siddeley 6p to 280p while Turner & Newall rose 3p to 79p amid talk that South African interests were at work.

Most of the major City investment analysts were anxiously awaiting their turn at a meeting last night at the Finance Institute to tax the board of ICI about future prospects. However, they are likely to be confronted with yet more gloom. The shares yesterday added 4p to 336p.

The takeover fever seen in banks and financials worked through to the rest of the sector. Bank of Scotland jumped 10p to 302p but Grindlays, for a long time favoured as a takeover candidate, relapsed 7p to 175p. In financials, Provident Financials climbed 12p to 146p, followed by Wagon Finance 4p to 53p. But FNC reverted to unchanged at 31p after an earlier rise of 1p at 33p.

This flurry of activity again pushed the main clearing banks into the background with small

gains due mainly to the thin conditions. Barclays added 7p to 388p, National Westminster a similar figure at 358p, while Midland slid 7p to 308p, ahead of figure on Friday.

Electricals remained popular with shares of ICL advancing another 3p to 45p amid talk of a financial rescue operation by the Government. AB Electronic rose 2p to 106p, after 92p, following figures and an encouraging trading statement, but Victor Products shed 4p to 164p in the wake of recent figures. Awaiting figures on Friday Standard Telephone & Cables expanded 8p to 517p while BICC, reporting soon, climbed 9p to 208p. The sensitive conditions provided improvements in GEC 7p to 653p, Royal 4p to 359p, Plesey 7p to 330p, ThornEMI 8p to 316p, Ferranti 12p to 555p, Electrocomponents 25p to 678p and Kwik 15p to 305p.

Elsewhere on the bid front, profit taking clipped 2p from Tunnel Holdings at 386p as T. W. Ward gained 4p to 124p. Bond St. Fabrics returned from suspension to rise 5p to 39p after bid terms from Auchinleck and bid talk stimulated Davies & Newman 14p to 168p. Milford Docks was wanted, 11p better at 121p, as North American increased its stake to 10.7 per cent.

Among those to benefit from stock shortages were, Great Universal Stores "A", 13p to 468p, Saatchi & Saatchi 26p to 363p and Dowty 12p to 259p, while speculative buying hoisted Braby Leslie 3p to 31p, Geers Gross 7p to 99p and Grimmer 10p to 144p.

Favourable mention of the leisure market helped Management Agency & Music 6p to 188p, Associated Leisure 8p to 131p and Kadbrooke 12p to 272p.

Building had Barratt Developments 24p stronger at 226p after improved interim figures, as Fairclough Cons rose 13p to 97p after a better performance than expected. The anticipated 27m rights issue accompanying figures left IMI 13p better at 61p but disappointing trading news lowered Stag Furniture 4p to 83p and Ductile Steel 2p to 43p. BTR continued to benefit from recent figures leaving 32p to 472p.

In foods, figures from Brooke Bond Leibig were in line with most expectations and the shares rallied 1p to 48p. Cadbury Schweppes was wanted, ahead of figures due out soon, firming 3p to 76p as was Bejam for a similar reason 7p dearer at 120p. Avana was another favourite, rising 7p to 213p, while its prospective partner Robertson Foods hardened 14p to 150p despite the rejection of the offer. In the mean-

time, speculative support left Bernard Matthews 15p higher at 383p, making a 35p rise so far this account.

Shortage of stock and the overnight strength of Wall Street kept oil shares on the move yesterday with prices continuing to gather pace regardless of the low turnover. BP edged ahead 6p to 392p along with Shell 4p at 396p, Ultramar 7p at 438p, Lamin 17p at 609p and Burnham 3p at 174p.

Among second liners, selective buying lifted Premier Cons 1p to 104p, Imperial Continental Gas 5p to 223p, Berkeley Exploration 15p to 293p and KCA International 2p to 193p.

Full-year results from Tricentrol due tomorrow will be at the lower end of expectation. Analysts have been downgrading earlier estimates and are now looking for between £15 and £15.5m of net income, compared with £10.1m last time. However, the shares remained buoyant with an 8p rise to 285p yesterday.

Properties tended to follow the market better, but business remained low key. MIEPC rose 3p to 230p, Land Securities 6p to 400p, Hammerson "A" 5p to 610p and Stock Conversion a similar figure at 338p.

Equity turnover for March 16 was £100.238m (bargains 17.657). Active stocks yesterday, according to the Exchange Telegraph, were: Razel, ThornEMI, Exploration 15p to 293p and KCA International 2p to 193p.

Traditional options: Dealers reported quieter conditions yesterday. Calls were made in ICI, Turner & Newall, Cons Gold, ICL, Conex, and Plessey.

Traded options: A total of 613 were recorded. GEC attracted 27, ICI 41, Commercial Union 25, Cons Gold 4, and BP 37.

No interim as Ductile drops to £1.5m loss

By Margereta Pagano

The West Midlands steel group, Ductile Steels, yesterday disclosed that despite large-scale redundancies and short-time working it had plunged into losses. The interim dividend has been passed.

Interim results to December show a pre-tax loss of £1.48m compared with profits last time of £2.37m. Sales fell by 40 per cent to £23.12m against £37.37m. The interim dividend last year was 3.02p gross. The shares tumbled 2p to 43p, just 1p above the low for the year.

Mr Ronald Sidaway, chairman, said this was the first time a loss had been recorded since Ductile was founded in 1931.

Divisions were severely hit by the acute shortage of orders and increased costs, but the worst affected were those in the steel and engineering divisions.

The group had felt the effect of extra costs coupled with the high pound and high interest rates which encouraged imports, and at home, price cutting by the British Steel Corporation.

Mr Sidaway said: "As yet there are few signs of a general recovery in trade. Under these conditions we must suspend payment of a dividend until we know the results for the full year and are better able to assess our future prospects."

Last year to June pre-tax profits were £4m on sales of £72.79m.

Fairclough inches ahead despite fall of associates

By Peter Wainright

Fairclough Construction Group, the civil engineering, building, tunnelling, opencast coal mining steelwork and materials handling group, had a better reception to its figures for 1980 than it did for 1979. A year ago the shares slipped 1p to 66p on news that 1979 pre-tax profits only rose from £9.56m to £10.17m.

Yesterday they climbed 13p to 97p on word that profits had inched ahead to £10.27m while turnover advanced from £23.75m to £26.05m. These profits would have been a lot higher but for a plunge in those of associates which fell from £2.77m to £900,000.

The main associated company, Fairclough-Al Midani, the 49 per cent owned concern operating in Saudi Arabia. There are also operations in Kenya. As a result, earnings a share are modestly from 16.03p to 18.79p.

but they swell to 42.34p, if the group, one adds back a hefty £10.34m in deferred tax. Ignoring this, current cost earnings a share emerge at 10.7p while the inflation-adjusted pre-tax profit comes down to £5.7m. However, the dividend rises from 5.72p gross to 6.4p.

Mr Oswald Davies, chairman, said that assets per share are now more than 110p. Cash balances are strong and work in hand is "satisfactory".

The cash apparently amounts to around £12.5m which compares with a market capitalization of not much more than £40m. Orders on hand are around £300m which is reassuring because the group depend heavily upon United Kingdom earnings. Within this, public sector work is important.

Dealers were relieved at the latest news, but at 97p, a 1980 81 peak, the yield is less than 7 per cent.

Stag Furniture profit halved in tough trading

By Margereta Pagano

Competitive trading conditions are blamed for a 56 per cent fall in Stag Furniture Holdings' pre-tax profits to £1.46m in the year to December.

Profits fell from £3.35m last time and sales declined by 5 per cent to £27.9m. The final dividend is 4.64p, gross, making a total payment for the year of 7.14p gross which is equal to last year's payment after adjustment for scrip issues. The shares fell 4p to 83p on the news.

The disappointing results, Mr Patrick Radford, chairman, said yesterday, were due to the extremely competitive trading conditions arising from the recession. This had particularly affected trading at the lower priced end of the market.

Although trading remained difficult, there had been a slight improvement in January when many retail stores reported successful sales. This strengthened the group's order book, but no further improvement is expected overall until the autumn, he said.

Last year the group closed the Stag Cabinet branch factory at Kingston-upon-Thames but it has continued to be used for self-assembly furniture manufacture and dining room chairs. These activities will now be concentrated at Nottingham where the group has recently acquired more land for development.

The sale of the Kingston factory will be completed in July with a cash payment of £1m and after meeting all factory closure costs, is expected to yield a net surplus of £400,000.

Latest results

Company	Sales £m	Profit £m	Earnings per share	Div pence	Pay date	Year's total
AB Electronic (I)	14.1(10.5)	0.56(0.4)	—	—	2/5	12.4(9.8)
Barratt Dev (I)	128.6(103.4)	11.9(11.6)	—	—	2/5	1.08(1.05)
Brown Engineering (F)	14.8(11.2)	0.5(0.62)	12.96(4.87)	0.79(0.79)	11/8	—
Burnham Mines (F)	—	0.14(0.12)	0.73(0.62)	0.75(0.62)	14/5	—
Burdell (I)	28.12(37.37)	1.48(1.37)	—	—	—	—
Fairclough (F)	264.05(237.5)	10.27(10.17)	18.8(16.09)	2.8(2.4)	1/7	4.5(4.0)
IMI (F)	628(612)	28.2(34.5)	0.8(1.57)	2.5(2.5)	8/5	4.5(4.4)
Jamaica Sugar (F)	0.11(0.2)	0.03(0.03)	0.9(0.897)	N/A(N/A)	—	—
Ldn Scottish (I)	3.76(3.2)	0.4(0.35)	—	—	15/5	—
McLaughlin & H (F)	46.3(34.6)	1.2(0.98)	44.9(14.3)	3.4(—)	7/5	5.25(3.01)
Stag Furniture (F)	27.8(29.5)	1.5(1.3)	12.0(14.8)	3.25(—)	28/5	5.0(5.0)
Warren & Gilbey (I)	41.22(29.79)	2.64(2.12)	14.0(6.5)	1.5(1.5)	18/5	—

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown gross. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.425. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. * = Forecast. † = Loss.

IMI 1980 Results

Year ended 31 December 1979 £000		Year ended 31 December 1980 £000
611,977	Group sales to external customers	628,582
34,536	Group profit before taxation	28,240
3,262	Taxation	5,693
29,366	Earnings after tax applicable to IMI Limited	23,492
(9,169)	Dividends	(9,387)
250,379	Net tangible assets	253,182

Notes

1. The recommendations of the Consultative Committee of Accountancy Bodies regarding accounting for foreign currency translations have been adopted for 1980. Profits and losses of overseas companies for 1980 have been translated into sterling at the average rates applicable to their accounting periods.

Exchange differences arising from the re-translation of the opening net investment in these companies and their retained earnings for the year into sterling at the rates of exchange at 30 September 1980 have been taken directly to reserves.

2. The Group's share of the profits, less losses, of major associated companies amounting to £0.8 million (1979: £2.1 million) has been included in profit before taxation.

3. Provision has been made for the payment of a bonus of £1.8 million (1979: £2.2 million) to employees participating in the IMI profit sharing scheme.

4. The charge for taxation comprises

UK Corporation Tax	£ million
Overseas Taxes	(0.3)
Release of deferred taxation provisions no longer required	(10.5)
Advance Corporation Tax written off	11.3
Adjustment for previous years	0.2
	5.7

The UK Corporation Tax credit has been calculated on the basis of a rate of 52%. The proposals of the Consultative Committee on Stock Appreciation Relief issued by the Board of Inland Revenue in November 1980 have been adopted. The provision for deferred tax on Stock Appreciation Relief has been wholly released and Advance Corporation Tax which is not presently recoverable has been written off, including £4.0 million in respect of dividends for 1980.

The effect of Stock Appreciation Relief combined with accelerated capital allowances and other timing differences has been to reduce the tax charge by £6.6 million (1979: £6.3 million).

5. This year the effects of inflation have been calculated in line with Statement of Standard Accounting Practice No. 16. This indicates that current cost profits before taxation amounted to £27.7m.

Dividends

The Directors recommend a final dividend of 2.5p per Ordinary Share, payable on 8 May 1981 to shareholders on the Register at the close of business on 9 April 1981, which will absorb £25,215,000 (1979: £25,210,000). Together with the interim dividend of 2.0p per share paid on 20 October 1980, this makes a total of 4.5p per share (1979: 4.4p per share).

Brief Review of Activities

Compared with 1979, sales volume fell by rather more than 5 per cent but sales value increased by 3 per cent to £629 million. Most of this increase was in exports from the UK which amounted to £135 million, 19 per cent higher than in 1979. Sales by our overseas manufacturing units increased by 7 per cent in terms of sterling and home sales fell by 3 per cent. Profits before tax were 18 per cent lower at £28.2 million, after charging approximately £5 million for redundancy and reorganisation costs.

Increased UK profits were derived from titanium, refinery operations, alloy tube and from a number of smaller activities including the IMI Mint, Brodenick roofing and cladding and IMI Marston's aircraft products. Overseas, special purpose valves did well in France and our Australian operations also achieved higher profits. The fluid power operations overall held up reasonably well. After a good first quarter many other activities were affected by the UK recession, in particular heat exchange, building products and copper semis. Eley ammunition and the LF/Opti Zip Fastener Group continued to experience particularly difficult trading conditions.

Rights Issue

The Directors of IMI have also announced that arrangements are in hand to raise approximately £27.5 million (net of expenses) by means of a rights issue of 59,598,520 new Ordinary Shares at a price of 48p per share. Documents are being posted to shareholders on 20 March 1981.

Building Products
Fluid Power
Zip Fasteners
Heat Exchange
General Engineering
Refined and Wrought Metals

IMI Limited, P.O. Box 216, Witton, Birmingham, B6 7BA

Boosey & Hawkes buys BCI for £4m

By Philip Robinson

Boosey & Hawkes, the music publisher and instrument maker, has bought an unnamed group of American investors to buy New York-based Buffet Crampon International (BCI) for around £4m cash.

BCI, whose shares are quoted on the New York over-the-counter market, makes and distributes high quality woodwind and brass instruments and is 67 per cent owned by three banks and an American institution, which have agreed in principle to sell Boosey & Hawkes their shares.

But Boosey has yet to go through the BCI books and will not announce how it will finance the deal until it sends shareholders a letter in early May, after its preliminary figures, report and accounts.

It is offering £7.35m (about £3.3m) for the 67 per cent stake and \$7 of loan stock and \$0.96 a share for the remaining 33 per cent of shares which are more widely held. The unnamed group was offering \$7.34m for the major stake and loan stock and a \$1 a share for the rest.

Mr Michael Boxford, chief executive of Boosey, said: "I appreciate it is a long time before we will be in a position to send a letter to shareholders. But I don't think there is going to be a fight over this."

Net asset value of BCI is put at about £3.6m. For the six months ending last June the group made a pre-tax profit of £100,000 on a turnover of £5m. Although based in America, BCI's three factories are in Europe, one in France and two in Germany, and employ 600 people. BCI would give B&H a world wide distribution network.

SGR Group annual meeting: Shareholders of the international plant and services group were told yesterday by the chairman, Mr Neville Clifford-Jones, that there was nothing but the recession to blame for the present poor trading conditions.

Mr Clifford-Jones, pictured at the meeting, said that the group had experienced a poor first half due particularly to the long Christmas holiday period which had put customers off hire and placing orders. Virtually no profit had been recorded for December, he said, and January had been nearly as bad.

Briefly

Jamaica Sugar Estates: Turnover year to Sept 30 £14,000 (£206,500). Pre-tax profit £30,000 (loss £28,000). EPS 0.99p (loss 0.89p). No div (same).

Shackleton Petroleum Corporation: On the basis of the results to date of its exploration and development programme in Canada and the United States the board of Shackleton have decided that the company should expend the balance of the net proceeds of the issue of 10.5m shares in conjunction with the continued exploration and development programme of the Canadian Resources. In reaching this decision the board has considered the independent valuation of the assets of Shackleton which was prepared as at December 31, 1980, and subsequent drilling results.

Unilever Ltd plans to float 15 per cent of its subsidiary, PT. Unilever Indonesia, through a share offer to the Indonesian public, with a prospectus expected late in August. The company said the issue is likely to consist of 3.5 million shares with a nominal value of 1,000 rupiahs each, contingent on Government approval. Unilever expects the



offering to raise the equivalent of some \$3m (US).

Alexanders Holdings: Chairman says in his annual statement that many factors make it difficult to prognosticate on future, but company is strong from an asset point of view (28p per share) and is well positioned to take full advantage of this when the economy returns to normal. When interest rates fall, leading to the end of the recession, company can look forward to increased profitability.

Local Authority Bonds: Interest rate on this week's issues of local authority yielding bonds is 12 1/2 per cent, issue price 100. Broom's Mill: Gross income for year to December 31: £166,000 (£150,000). Pre-tax profit £144,000 (£122,000). EPS 0.729p (0.626p). Nav 10.4p (15.5p). Dividend 0.5p net (0.625p). Mr R. Morrison resigned from board as result of his entering into a service agreement with Planned Savings Holdings, that precludes him from holding outside directorships. London Scottish Finance Corporation: Interim 0.85p (0.75p). Turnover for half year to January 27 £3,799m (£3,227m). Pre-tax profit £406,500 (£351,000). After finance costs £268,000 (£247,000). Crown House has sold its office development at Bromley, Kent, to a city institution for £1.55m. This property which was developed to provide 11,000 sq ft of office space was let at a rental of £79,850 per annum.

AB Electronic loses £565,000

By Our Financial Staff

A.B. Electronic Products Group has dropped sharply into the red for the sixth month to the end of last December. It is the first time the group has made a loss in the opening half.

Pre-tax profits, dropped from £395,000 to a loss of £565,000 on a turnover barely changed at £10.4m.

The group has carried out rationalisations and the board say that, although costly, this will ensure continued recovery. The group says that adequate finance is available, and a medium-term loan facility of £1.5m has not yet been drawn.

Bank Base Rates

ABN Bank	12 1/2%
Barclays	12 1/2%
BCCI	12 1/2%
Consolidated Credits	12 1/2%
C. Hoare & Co.	12 1/2%
Lloyds Bank	12 1/2%
Midland Bank	12 1/2%
Nat Westminster	12 1/2%
TSB	12 1/2%
Williams and Glyn's	12 1/2%

* 7 day deposit on sums of £10,000 and under 9 1/2%
£50,000 10 1/2%
£100,000 11 1/2%

M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited
27/28 Lovat Lane London EC3R 8EB Telephone 01-621 1212
The Over-the-Counter Market

1980/81	High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div/Yld	P/E
75	39	Airsprung Group	64	—	6.7	10.5	5.8
59	21	Armitage & Rhodes	80	—	1.4	2.8	20.5
192	92	Bardon Hill	189	—	9.7	5.1	7.1
98	88	Deborah Services	94	—	5.5	5.9	4.7
126	88	Frank Horsell	107	+1	6.4	6.0	3.4
110	39	Frederick Parker	42	—	1.7	4.0	18.3
110	74	George Blair	74	—	3.1	4.2	—
110	59	Jackson Group	107	+1	6.9	6.4	4.1
124	103	James Burrough	117	—	7.9	6.8	9.6
334	244	Robert Jenkins	324	-1	31.3	9.7	—
55	50	Scruttons 'A'	51	—	5.3	10.4	3.7
224	215	Torday Limited	215	—	15.1	7.0	3.7
23	10	Twinkl Ord	10	—	—	—	—
90	69	Twinkl 15% ULS	72	—	15.0	20.8	—
56	35	Unilock Holdings	47	—	3.0	6.4	7.2
103	81	Walter Alexander	99	-1	5.7	5.8	5.5
263	181	W. S. Yates	261	—	12.1	4.6	4.3

Drayton Premier Investment Trust Limited

Total assets at 31 December, 1980: £95.7m. (1979: £79.7m.)

Net asset value per Ordinary share rose from 227 1/2p to 292 1/2p. An increase of 28.6 per cent.

Net revenue available for Ordinary shareholders rose from £

FINANCIAL NEWS

Pittard reports increase in demand

By Catherine Gunn

West country tanner Pittard Group made a £521,000 pretax loss in 1980, but has maintained its dividend because of a £587,000 tax credit and an extraordinary credit of £414,000. The total dividend is 5.71p. The shares held their ground at 47p yesterday. Group profits in 1979 were £1.49m. With faint signs of improving demand, Mr. Neil Wood, chairman, thinks a first-half profit this year is possible.

Trading grew progressively harder last year. Cheap imports of leather from South America and India and of finished leather goods from Comecon countries again undercut BSC prices. In the United Kingdom the strong pound reduced export margins and retailers and manufacturers began de-stocking from April as demand fell with lower consumer spending.

Meanwhile, hide and skin prices fell sharply, causing net losses of £1m by the December 31 year-end. Mr. Wood said yesterday that there were faint signs of re-stocking by manufacturers, mainly in glove leather where margins are highest. About 30 per cent of the group's leather went into gloves last year, with 50 per cent sold to shoe manufacturers and up to 20 per cent to upholstery manufacturers, who took a lower proportion in 1980 than normally. Mr. Wood aims to split group sales evenly between the three markets eventually. Leather prices were also showing signs of improvement, he said.

Sales at £18.3m last year fell nearly 23 per cent both in volume and value. Trading profits fell from £2.5m to £402,000, while interest costs rose 12.3 per cent to £626,000. Mr. Wood expected interest charges to fall by £300,000 in 1981, reflecting lower MLR and reduced borrowings. Borrowings stand at £3m now, against £2.2m at the end of 1979. The proceeds of the sale of the Beckenham site will reduce borrowings.

Property sale aids Waring & Gillow

By Margaret Pagan

Results from Waring & Gillow, the furniture and carpet retailers, for the six months to September reflect both difficult trading conditions and major changes within the company since its acquisition last year of Maples.

Trading profits of £586,000 were reported compared with £2.12m last time. But the addition of £3.06m of exceptional credit from the sale of property boosted pretax profits to £2.84m after an extraordinary item of £578,000 covering the losses from the closing division and factory closures.

On the profits of £2.84m a

reserve for taxation of about £928,000, against £1.1m last year, has been made. Some £229,000 was transferred to the deferred profit reserve to cover outstanding hire purchase debts before striking the pretax figure. Sales rose to £41.22m against £29.7m. The interim dividend has been maintained at 2.14p gross.

Mr. Manny Cussins, chairman, said yesterday that trading profits were affected by increased costs and static sales. Trading at £909,000 compared with £2.2m last time. Results from Maples, acquired last May, have been included, but its UK division lost £74,000 and its over-

seas stores made losses of £190,000. Losses in Waring's clothing division total £59,000. By the summer the group will have closed the last of its six factories, which at a peak three years ago employed 2,000 people.

Mr. Cussins added that the second half of the year is traditionally better for the furniture industry and recent trading has shown some improvement. January and February were relatively buoyant and Maples is expected to contribute significantly to profits in the full year.

Total property sales amounted to £10.3m over the period. This has been used to reduce the group's overdraft.



Mr. Manny Cussins, chairman at Waring & Gillow.

Euroflame tries again for USM quotation

By Philip Robinson

Euroflame Holdings, whose plans to come to the unlisted securities market were delayed when the chairman mentioned a profits forecast which was not in the formal documents, is ready to try again for a quote.

A revised prospectus was lodged with the Stock Exchange Quotations Committee on Monday and it is expected that a decision on whether to allow Euroflame to market on that prospectus is due later this week.

Dealings in the 1.1 million shares, placed at 30p to raise £330,000, were due to start on February 25. But five days earlier Mr. John Viall, chairman, said at a press conference that he would be disappointed if profits this year were less than £450,000.

The remark was published in several newspapers and the Stock Exchange demanded that a formal forecast be included in the prospectus. A spokesman for Tring Hall Securities, the issuing house which plans to retain a 53 per cent stake in Euroflame, said: "We are currently going through the Stock Exchange procedures."

The delay in placing the shares, which has meant an audit and a reprint of the prospectus, is thought to have added £5,000 to the original £60,000 cost.

First-quarter sales record for Sony

International

Sony Corporation reports that consolidated sales rose to a record 261,160m yen (£563m) for the first quarter to January 31 from 221,960m yen a year earlier.

Consolidated net income remained high at 20,120m yen, up from 19,530m a year earlier, while earnings per depositary share were 92 yen against 91 yen.

In the first quarter the value of the yen showed a sharp rise from a year earlier, causing a substantial reduction in the book value of consolidated net sales. This in turn made for a corresponding rise in the cost ratio.

The Sony board said that negative factors were more than offset by brisk sales of portable stereo cassette players, the Betamax and other video equipment.

Another offsetting factor was substantial translation gains from converting financial statements of Sony's overseas subsidiaries into yen, and also currency exchange gains due to forward contracts.

Bayernverein holds payout

Bayerische Vereinsbank has announced an unchanged dividend of 9 Deutsche marks (£1.9) per 50-mark par value share for 1980. It is also planning a stock increase. The payout will be made on 400m mark par value stock capital, up from 360m marks in 1979.

The bank said in Munich yesterday that it is proposing to raise the stock capital to 450m-mark par value using 50m marks in authorized capital for the increase.

Lend Lease plans disposal

Australia Square, the Sydney landmark, may be sold to General Property Trust.

The seller, Lend Lease Corporation, the property developer, is negotiating disposal of the 50-story skyscraper to GPT, which is a close

associate. Independent valuation is being sought by both parties. Australia Square is Lend Lease's remaining property investment and was last valued by the group internally at \$A52m (about £27m). A number of other prices is now expected.

Auchinleck in £1.3m bid for BSF

Auchinleck Investment, a private Scottish textile group, has made a £1.3m offer for Bond Street Fabrics (BSF), which received an unwelcome £750,000 bid from its main shareholder, Grovebell, earlier this month.

The new bid, which is agreed by the BSF board, offers 40p a share and 67p for the convertible loan stock in Bond Street which closed down its Leicester manufacturing operation at the beginning of the year and is now left with two Scottish factories making knitwear. Grovebell has been a Bond Street shareholder for two years and currently holds 23 per cent of the equity. Mr. Vasant Advani, its chairman, said yesterday that the board would make a decision on its next step when it had seen the information presented to Auchinleck on Bond Street's trading position.

"Under Rule 12 of the Take-over Code we are entitled to see figures that have not been available to us until now so we can decide to accept the offer, increase our own or do nothing", he said.

Canadian oil shares for London

A newly incorporated Canadian company, Falmouth Petroleum, is making an issue of shares, and dealings will be permitted in London.

Laurence, Prust and Company and Vivian Gray and Company have undertaken to seek subscribers for a maximum of 2 million common shares of Falmouth at \$2 per share payable in full on application. The issue is not being underwritten.

Listing has been granted by the Vancouver Stock Exchange, and subject to the filing of final documentation and satisfactory evidence of distribution, dealings will be permitted on the London Stock Exchange under rule 163(1) (c).

McLaughlin raises payout and tops £1m

McLaughlin & Harvey has raised its gross dividend for 1980 from 4.28p to 7.5p. Turnover for the year went up from £34.7m to £46.3m and pretax profits from £980,000 to £1.2m.

McLaughlin has a tax credit of £603,000 against a charge of £417,000.

Exchange losses took £264,000 compared with £30,000. Earnings per share were 44.9p against 14.3p.

A lack of orders has forced the Bronx Engineering Holdings group to make about 20 per cent of its staff redundant and bring in short-term working.

The group expects a first-half loss after a year in which profits dropped from £24,000 to £307,000 before tax. Turnover for the year to November 30 rose from £11.2m to £14.8m.

The gross dividend was 1.54p against 1.5p.

The board says that a loss for the first half of the current year is almost certain. It is also unlikely that the group will recover sufficiently for a reasonable profit level to be made by the year end.

Avana confirms forecast

Avana Group, whose bitterly contested takeover bid for "Golly" joins group Robertson

Food's closes on Friday March 20, has issued a statement confirming its recent profit forecast of £5.4m pretax.

Avana fell foul of certain technicalities in the Takeover Code by omitting the profit forecast and a directors' responsibility statement in a recent circular to Robertson shareholders. The Takeover Panel asked Avana to put this right.

Marchwiel to float S African offshore

Marchwiel, the Cheshire-based building and civil engineering concern, is making, in South Africa, a public offer of shares in its offshore there, Alfred McAlpine and Son.

After the offer, which has been underwritten by Hill Samuel (S.A.), an application will be made to the Johannesburg Stock Exchange for a listing.

The shares are being offered at 310 cents each, at which the company is capitalised at R31m (about £16m). Following completion of the offer, Marchwiel will own 70 per cent of the capital of McAlpine S.A. The net proceeds will be about R8.8m (£4.4m) which will be employed elsewhere in the group.

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Extracts from the review by the Chairman Mr. W. G. Boustred

The profit attributable to Anglo American Coal shareholders for 1980 was £79.1 million, an increase of 20.7 per cent over that earned for the previous year. Vynheid Coronation became a wholly-owned member of the Group from the beginning of the year with the result that there was a reduction in the proportion of profit attributable to outside shareholders in subsidiary companies.

Turnover of the Group rose by 20.8 per cent to R465.5 million and operating profit increased to R183.9 million. The Group's profit before taxation of R124.1 million was 16.4 per cent above the 1979 pre-tax profit of R106.8 million.

The profit after taxation of R65.3 million was an increase of 18.9 per cent over the R71.7 million of last year and after deducting the profit attributable to outside shareholders in subsidiary companies the profit attributable to Anglo American Coal shareholders increased from R65.5 million to R79.1 million. These earnings represented 336.7 cents per share which compares with the 1979 earnings of 278.9 cents per share. A final dividend of 72 cents per share has been declared making a total for the year of 108 cents which represents an increase of 28 per cent over the 90 cents distributed for 1979 and results in a dividend cover of 3.1 times which was the same as that for the previous year.

COAL MINING ACTIVITIES
Turnover from the sales of coal and coke increased by 17.2 per cent to R363.5 million which resulted in an operating profit of R101.1 million, an increase of 10.6 per cent over the operating profit of R90.5 million achieved in the previous year. The tonnage of coal and coke sold during the year increased marginally by 0.7 million tons to a total of 33.7 million tons. The average profit per ton sold increased by 8.2 per cent as a result of an increase in coal sold on the export market and a higher profit earned from the coal sold from the coal stock.

During 1979 the Group's coal mines managed to contain unit costs at a very commendable level, mainly due to the contribution from the open-cast operations at Klerkoppe and Kriel and by increased productivity. However, during the period under review, unit costs increased by 16.0 per cent, which, although below the rate of increase in the Wholesale Price Index, is nevertheless of major concern to management and this aspect of operations must receive even closer attention in 1981.

The South African coal mining industry continued to expand its output and recorded production in excess of 114 million tons for 1980. The major contributions to the rising demand for coal continued to be the increase in consumption by Eskom at their new power stations in the eastern Transvaal, the further increase in export activity and the coal requirements for the new Sasol installations.

Anglo American maintained its position as the Republic's largest coal producer and contributed 30 per cent of South Africa's output in 1980.

The Group's net expenditure on coal mining assets at R30 million was below the R65 million spent during 1979, and took place principally at Klerkoppe, Kriel and Bank Collieries.

Group collieries supplied 21.3 million tons of coal to Eskom in 1980. This tonnage was marginally lower than the 21.8 million tons supplied in 1979.

NEW COLLIERIES
During the year, shareholders were informed that Eskom had awarded its contract to obtain coal supplies from the New Denmark for an additional 1800 MW of generating capacity at Tutuka power station. Accordingly, the colliery is now being developed to supply coal for a total of 3600 MW of generating capacity which will require some 10 million tons a year at full output. In addition, the planned commissioning date for the first generating set at the power station has been advanced from September 1985 to March 1985.

For the New Vail colliery, Eskom initially awarded Anglo American a contract for a coal supply to 1800 MW of generating capacity at the Lethabo power station, but has since requested Anglo to submit an extended offer to allow the coal supply for an additional 1800 MW to allow the station's capacity to be increased to 3600 MW. In addition, Eskom has advanced the planned commissioning date for the first set at Lethabo from the latter part of the 1980s to September 1985. The reserves available to New Vail are more than adequate to supply coal for 3600 MW and mine planning for the expanded colliery will be based on the optimum utilisation of the reserves in the coalfield.

EXPORT AND DOMESTIC TRADE
The Group's export collieries continued to maintain a high level of production and raised a total of 7.8 million tons of steam coal and low ash metallurgical coal to Richards Bay during 1980 of which 6.0 million tons was sold through the TCOA as part of its total exports of 12.1 million tons. The balance of 1.8 million tons raised to RBCT was against the Group's own export entitlement under Phase II of the export programme.

Sales by the TCOA to the domestic market, which have declined in recent years, showed a modest increase in 1980. The reduction in TCOA sales to Eskom and the SAR was offset by increased sales to the industrial sector. Due to the increased activity of the building sector, the demand on TCOA from the cement industry improved and the TCOA was able to meet the demand for higher quality sized coal.

As has been the case in the international market, various domestic industrial consumers are now converting from oil to coal. Although the rate of conversion is slow it nevertheless will provide additional market opportunities for the TCOA in the future.

PRODUCTIVITY AND LABOUR
Sales from Group collieries totalled 33.7 million tons, an increase of 2.1 per cent over 1979. Productivity increased by 0.7 per cent from 125.7 tons per employee per month to 134.1 tons per employee per month and resulted from a reduction of 4.4 per cent in the average number of employees and the additional coal produced.

Within the industry, major proposals are under consideration by employers, and it is hoped that these will lead to significantly improved relationships between the employers and unions active in the industry.

The shortage of skilled labour has become acute, and it has been necessary for the Group to resort to overseas recruiting. The long-term solution to this problem must, however, lie in the increased training of South African workers of all races. This is an important industrial relations objective for the Group, in order to avoid the skills shortage becoming the limiting factor on existing and future operations.

The major feature of the annual wage increases implemented by Anglo in this year was the introduction of overtime payments to blacks on the same basis as white employees. An objective remains the narrowing of the gap which exists between minimum pay rates in the mining industry and comparable jobs in heavy industry.

RESERVES
The tempo of coal exploration undertaken by the Anglo American Corporation Group's coal syndicates, in which Anglo is a participant, was considerably increased during the year in furtherance of the Group's strategy to improve its ability to supply coal competitively on a wide geographical basis.

A revision of the Group's coal reserve estimates based on present day and planned mining methods, as opposed to those utilised in the preparation of the Petrick Report of 1975, resulted in a significant increase in the proven reserves available for exploitation. Reserves to which Anglo has access are now estimated at some 70 billion run-of-mine tons.

During the year, coal rights to some 580 million tons were purchased and secured at a cost of 80,000 hectares. It is anticipated that rights to a further 200 million tons will be purchased during 1981.

ENERGY AND EXPORTS
Notwithstanding the reduction of oil supplies from the Middle East due to local conflicts there, the western world is currently adequately supplied with crude oil due to significantly lower demands brought about by mild northern hemisphere winters and the general recession in the developed countries. Nevertheless, the erratic nature of oil supplies and oil pricing in recent years has resulted in utilities and industrial concerns utilising primary energy recognising that their future growth should be based on coal and, where possible, nuclear power.

Due to the environmental restrictions placed on nuclear power, coal is presently the focus of new energy programmes. These programmes will take time to bring to fruition but all the indications are for a steady and substantial growth of coal as a primary energy source. In addition, the past 12 months have seen significant conversions from oil to coal, particularly in the cement industry, together with maximum use of coal-firing in preference to oil-fired power stations. This has led to an increased demand for internationally traded steam coal. Demand marginally exceeded supply and prices firmed further. This increased demand has led other exporting countries to expand their production, the ability of the United States to export more steam coal being particularly noticeable. The USA has considerable potential as a coal exporter although the present limitations of railroad and port infrastructures are limiting factors.

The Department of Energy and Mineral Affairs is currently undertaking an updated study of coal reserves and coal demand in order to review the total level of exports ultimately to be undertaken by the South African coal mining industry. It is essential that any further export authorities should be granted to those corporations, such as Anglo, which have the necessary coal reserves and coal mining expertise to ensure that the Republic's own rapidly escalating domestic coal requirements are met in the decades ahead.

FUTURE PROSPECTS
During the year Anglo joined with AECI and Shell to investigate the potential for private industry to manufacture and sell methanol on a competitive basis with imported crude oil and Sasol's oil from coal.

Anglo, together with its partners will continue actively to explore the possibility of the private sector manufacturing transport fuels from coal and will maintain close co-operation with the Government in the expectation that this important project can ultimately be brought to development.

Anglo's success in winning two of the three coal supply contracts awarded by Eskom and its participation in the Phase II export programme has required it to embark on a major capital expenditure programme over the next several years. The expansion opportunities brought about by this new business will result in coal output increasing to over 80 million tons a year and will provide a sound basis for substantial and sustained growth in the years ahead.

The current year will see the coal mining division concentrate on the consolidation of its operating collieries with particular attention being given to the containment of working costs. The acquisition of Natal Anthracite has broadened the Group's earnings base and forecasts indicate that profits for the current year from both the coal mining and refractories divisions will continue to show real growth.

The 32nd annual general meeting of Anglo American Coal Corporation will be held in Johannesburg on April 14th, 1981. Copies of this review and of the annual report are obtainable from the London office of the company at 40, Holborn Viaduct, EC1P 1AJ, or from the transfer secretaries Charter Consolidated Limited, PO Box 102, Charter House, Park Street, Ashford, Kent TN24 8EQ.

Essex Water Company

The Hon. P.E. Brassey's Statement to Stockholders

The following is the Chairman's Statement submitted at the Annual General Meeting on 17th March, 1981.

Mr. Arthur W. White

At the Board Meeting on 20th January, 1981, Mr. A. W. White announced that due to his age he had decided to relinquish the Chairmanship of the Company. Mr. White joined the Board in 1962 and had been Chairman since 1966. It was under his Chairmanship that the Company extended its area very substantially. He consolidated the area into one unit and great credit is due to him for the part he played in bringing this about with the minimum of disturbance to those concerned. As his successor in the chair I record my thanks and those of his fellow directors for his outstanding service not only to this Company but to the water industry in general. As a mark of esteem Mr. White has been elected President of the Company.

Capital

An issue of £7,000,000 8½% Redeemable Preference Stock 1985 was made on 10th December, 1980, to provide funds towards the financing of capital expenditure and to redeem £3,500,000 9% Redeemable Preference Stock 1981 on 2nd January, 1981. The issue was made by tender and its success is reflected in the average price of £105.01 per £100 of stock received.

The Company's existing capital powers provide for the issue of just over £1,500,000 of additional capital or loan stock, a figure which is inadequate to meet the requirements of the Company for forthcoming redem

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Gross Rev. 174		Gross	
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* \$2 dividend, + \$x all, + Forecast dividend, + Corrected price, + Interim payment passed, + Price at suspension, + Dividend and yield exclude a special payment, + Bid for company, + Dividend and yield, + Forecast earnings, + \$x capital distribution, + \$x rights, + \$x scrip or share split, + Tax free, + Price adjusted for late dealings, ... No significant data.	
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RECENT ISSUES		Closing
		Price
Bristol Water 8 1/2% Red Pref 1986 (+b)		512
Bristol Aerospace 3 1/2% Op 1980		175-1/2
Cable Pipe 10 1/2% Red Tax 82 (+2)		60-1/2
Do 5 1/2% Red 1986 (+10b)		60-1/2
Empire-Ten 10 1/2% Op 1980 (+b)		94-1/2
Essexquebec 12% Op 1982 Op 75 (+)		198 1/2-3/4
Essexquebec 12 1/2% Op 1980 (+3b)		115-1/2
Essexquebec 12 1/2% 'B' 1989 (+)		127-1/2
Enbridge 10 1/2% Op 1980 (+b)		127-1/2
Enl Merobien 8 1/2% Red Cw Lm 2000-05 (+)		110-1/2
Mid-Sussex Water 8% Red Pref 1985 (+)		110-1/2
New Naris 10 1/2% Red 1980 Op 1980		117-1/2
Oil and Gas Production 20 1/2% Op 82 (+2)		127-1/2
Portals 9 1/2% Cw 1994-2000 (+)		127-1/2
Quebec 10 1/2% Op 1980 (+b)		106
Ten Energy 5% Op 1984-2005 (+b)		127-1/2
Treasury 12 1/2% 1986 (+b)		53 1/2

RIGHTS ISSUES	Latest date of payment	
BIGGS Hill Props (+732)	Apr 29	2 1/2% prem-5

Issue price in parentheses, - \$x dividend, + issued by tender, + Nil paid, + \$50 paid b, \$100 paid b.
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